



MARRIAGE AT 17
Can Macaulay make it work?

page 16



KNOW A COMPUTER THAT CAN

Inter/Face



JOB SHARE SHUFFLE
How to juggle motherhood and a career

page 17

Why AMERICA is turning off TV

Treasury 'comes up with the dosh'

NHS charges ruled out by Dobson

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

FRANK DOBSON has ruled out the introduction of health charges for the rest of this Parliament after securing an extra £3 billion for the National Health Service.

The Secretary of State for Health said yesterday that the Treasury "is willing to come up with the extra dosh". The £500 million provided in the Budget last month was only "the first instalment" of the new money.

In an interview with *The Times*, Mr Dobson said the Chancellor would commit £3 billion extra to bring the number of people on National Health Service waiting lists under one million before the next election.

He said: "I am confident now of getting extra funds and this will be available over the next three years. This will enable health authorities to plan ahead with a three-year rolling budget."

The Government is on course to meet the medical profession's own estimate of what is needed. The British Medical Association has been pressing for an extra £1 billion in each of the five years of the Parliament.

"The NHS will be funded from taxation," Mr Dobson said. "Charging would break the principle that people should have access to health care when they need it."

The Government's comprehensive review of spending, which is scheduled to be completed this summer, had already found that the extra money could be provided without any need to charge

patients. Mr Dobson added that there would have been huge administrative costs in collecting small sums of money if patients had been expected to pay.

Mr Dobson emphasised that the Government's priority was to cut NHS waiting lists because it was what the public wanted.

The bulk of the £500 million provided in the Budget would be used to cut waiting lists by 100,000 within the next year. The extra money provided over the next three years would be used to concentrate on primary care while cutting waiting lists by at least another 100,000.

"Nobody in the past has ever managed to get them down for any lengthy period but we are going to and we aim to get them below a million by the end of this Parliament."

"The target figure is attainable," he said.

The target was set on the advice of Alan Langlands, Chief Executive of the NHS, who will be responsible for spending 10 per cent of the money, which will be used as a "bonus" for trusts that come up with effective schemes for reducing their lists. However, regional boards and hospitals will be responsible for spending the bulk of the money.

The average cost of an operation is £1,000, with the most common ones ranging from hip replacements at £5,000 to day-care cataract removals at £500.

However, operating theatres currently work at only

about 90 per cent capacity. The £320 million in the Budget targeted at waiting lists in England would theoretically be enough for up to 300,000 operations, but this depends on enough staff being found to carry them out and nurse patients until they recover.

More than 100,000 patients are certain to be referred for operations over the year, but the key to shorter waiting lists is the recruitment of nurses.

There is a shortage of 8,000 full-time nurses in the National Health Service.

The Royal College of Nurses has warned the Government that the shortage will only grow worse in the wake of the decision to stage the payment of this year's pay award.

Mr Dobson said he believed this did not matter. "Surveys show that pay comes six or seven for nurses in terms of importance," he said. "What has to be done is to make working hours more attractive. There are 140,000 qualified nurses who cost the country £4.5 billion to train who are not doing nursing and in some cases are doing even worse paid jobs."

"We have to make it more attractive for them to come back through a change in working hours. Those who are responsible for children need to be able to drop them at school and pick them up in the evening and they need extra time during school holidays. Flexible hours must be a possibility for them."

"The same thing applies to junior doctors, especially women."



Karen Pearce arrives in the hospital yesterday, and Keith Pople leaves after the evidence. She claimed he once appeared naked in her bedroom.

Colonel bombarded ex-lover with sex calls

By STEPHEN FARRELL

A FEMALE naval officer yesterday told how a high-ranking Army officer bombarded her with threatening and sexually-explicit letters and phone calls after the break-up of their two-and-a-half-year affair. Lieutenant Commander Karen Pearce, 34, told a court martial that her former boss, Lieutenant Colonel Keith Pople, threatened to ruin her career by sending letters to her superiors, friends and new lover when she refused to resume their relationship. After one failed attempt, she claimed, he appeared naked in her bedroom.

Lieutenant Colonel Pople, 42, the

former commanding officer of 4 Regiment Army Air Corps, denies two military offences of conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline and scandalous conduct on becoming the character of an officer.

The case is certain to embarrass the Ministry of Defence after several high-profile scandals involving alleged relationships between serving male and female personnel. An attempt yesterday by the military judge advocate to ban reporting until after the hearing was lifted only after newspapers challenged the ruling.

The five-member panel was told that Lieutenant Colonel Pople and Lieutenant Commander Pearce met in March

1993 when sharing a Whitehall office on the staff of the Admiral Sir Jock Slater, the former Vice-Chief of Defence Staff.

Giving evidence for three hours without once looking at her former lover, the black-uniformed officer told how they first became lovers in November 1993 in a hotel in Naples while accompanying Admiral Slater to Italy. Both were married, although she was later to divorce, and kept the affair secret because they knew the military would "not look favourably" on an extra-marital relationship.

She claimed it had been a serious affair during which he said he had left his wife Brenda and two sons and

discussed reversing his vasectomy to have children together, even fantasising about having one auburn-haired girl they would name Alexandra.

The officer said the affair began to go wrong after April 1995 when she was posted to the aircraft carrier *HMS Illustrious* in the Adriatic. Although she met Lieutenant Colonel Pople when he flew to Malta, she admitted she was unfaithful with him after beginning a second affair with a married junior *Illustrious* colleague, Lieutenant Nigel McTear, during which they had sex in the back of a car in Malta on shore leave. Lieutenant

Continued on page 3, col 3

Brown's tough line on pound

The Chancellor has dismissed calls for the Treasury to take action to curb the surging pound, insisting that exporters must join the Government in taking a long-term view. Gordon Brown told the Treasury Select Committee it would be wrong to give into "short-term pressures". Page 2

Nuclear waste

Hazardous nuclear waste that was dumped down a shaft on the coast near the Dounreay plant in northern Scotland decades ago is to be retrieved using a robot, the Government announced. Page 9

TV & RADIO	42, 43
WEATHER	22
CROSSWORDS	22, 44
LETTERS	19, 27
OBITUARIES	21
ALAN COREN	18
ARTS	33-35
CHESS & BRIDGE	41
COURT & SOCIAL	20
SPORT	39-42, 44
FEATURES	16, 17
HOMES	37

Buying The Times overseas:
Australia \$10.00; Belgium £8.00; Canada \$10.00; Denmark Dkr 16.00; Cyprus £1.20; France F 16.00; Germany DM 4.50; Gibraltar £0.50; Greece Dr 650; Netherlands Fl 5.50; Italy L 4.50; Luxembourg Lfr 90; Maldives Mv 350; Malta £4.50; Monaco Mfr 30.00; Norway Kr 25.00; Portugal Con Esc 350; Spain Ptas 325; Sweden Skr 25.00; Switzerland Sfr 5.00; Tunisia Din 3.200; USA \$3.50.



Campbell denies lying over Blair call to Prodi

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND JILL SHERMAN

TONY BLAIR'S official spokesman yesterday angrily rejected Tory accusations that he had lied on behalf of the Prime Minister over claims that he had acted to help the business interests of Rupert Murdoch.

As the Conservatives launched a concerted move to show that the episode was another example of power "going to the Government's head" Alastair Campbell lashed out at the Conservatives, the media in general and the BBC in particular at the way they were handling the affair.

He challenged journalists who had attended his briefings over Mr Blair's conversation with Romano Prodi, the Italian Prime Minister, to say whether he had lied or not. And he accused the press of being "neurotic" about certain issues. "One is Murdoch. One is Labour spin-doctors. Put the two together and you have an orgy of self-indul-

gence lasting days."

Mr Campbell has suddenly become a target for the Tories. The latest row centres on the phone call between Mr Blair and Signor Prodi in which, *The Times* disclosed last Friday, the Italian Prime Minister gave a lukewarm response to Mr Blair's inquiry about the prospects of Mr Murdoch's



attempt to buy a television network in Italy.

Mr Campbell had throughout last week vehemently denied reports that Mr Blair had intervened to lobby on behalf of Mr Murdoch, chairman and chief executive of the News Corporation, parent company of *The Times*.

But the disclosure last weekend that Mr Campbell had also ticked off "Patrick Harman and Frank Field" over leaks about the Budget and the welfare reform paper also provoked Tory claims that Mr Blair was surrounded by "overmighty courtiers dictating to ordinary politicians."

Francis M. "The Shadow" Culture Secretary, led the Tory onslaught against Mr Campbell. He said: "We want to know if he is doing this in his own bat, or specifically authorised by the Prime Minister."

Continued on page 2, col 3

Leading article, page 19

Nine suspended at Wormwood Scrubs

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

EIGHT prison officers and a senior manager at Wormwood Scrubs were suspended from duty yesterday over allegations of brutality and mistreatment of prisoners.

The move came after senior officials in the Prison Service asked the Metropolitan Police to investigate five cases in which inmates in the West London jail have made serious allegations of assault. There had already been an interim report on an internal Prison Service inquiry.

Tony Pearson, the deputy director-general of the Prison Service, said: "There are very serious questions to be answered in five cases which the police should investigate. We have asked the police to do so."

He added that most of those making allegations of mistreatment had been identified by Peter Atherton, the senior official heading the internal inquiry. The report was unable to decide on two anonymous complaints, but immediate action was being taken to

"strengthen the management and supervision within the prison", Mr Pearson said.

Yesterday's action is the most serious to affect the Prison Service since 1989 when four officers were committed for trial over allegations of mistreatment at Armley jail in Leeds.

It comes less than a week after six prison custody officers were suspended on full pay at Brixton jail in Redditch, an "request" having decided that an inmate there had been unlawfully killed while being restrained.

The decision to suspend the eight men and a woman came after a dossier containing details of alleged serious assaults on eight inmates was handed to the Chief Inspector of Prisons.

Mark Healy, national chairman of the Prison Officers' Association, said it would co-operate fully with the police investigation, but added that it was not clear why it had taken ten days for it to start.

Babies are 'safer' sleeping in the marital bed

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

RED-EYED parents who bring their mewling baby into bed with them can rest assured: the child is not at risk. New research shows the only danger is that no one will get a wink of sleep. For years health experts have been divided over the benefits and dangers of parent-baby "co-sleeping". Arguments that the experience was important for bonding were countered by those that it spoiled the child and, more importantly, that it could result in the infant's accidental death.

But a pioneering study by anthropologists at Durham University concludes that babies who are tucked up under the duvet with their parents are unlikely to be crushed, smothered or overcome by excessive heat. They are also at less risk of cot death.

The study, which used infra-red cameras to film the sleeping patterns of five families in their homes in North East England, found that far from posing a health hazard the practice actually offers many advantages to infants.

That is the good news. The bad news for many sleep-deprived parents

is that the baby is likely to wake up more often.

After watching 80 hours of videotape, the researchers concluded that mothers and babies fell into a kind of sleep pattern. The mother-infant pairs were in physical contact for up to 90 per cent of the time and were facing each other for up to 95 per cent of the time. Mothers tended to sleep curled up around their babies for 60 to 80 per cent of the time.

Dr Helen Ball, leading the research, said that as a result of these patterns, the mothers and babies tended to interrupt each others' sleep.

"A baby sleeping with its mother didn't appear to go into long, deep, sleep patterns in the same way as a child sleeping on its own. It tended to move into light sleep and also woke to be breast-fed. This is important for babies because it is believed that sudden infant death is linked to deep sleep patterns," she said.

The study is also the first to examine whether babies were more at risk sleeping with both parents. While it found no increased risk, it concluded that the infant was likely to stay awake for longer periods when its father was around.

If you knew how much you're being overcharged for life cover, the shock could kill you.

If you took out your life cover a while ago either to protect your mortgage or your family's lifestyle, you could be paying well over the odds.

But now that Direct Line provides life cover, you don't have to pay through the nose anymore. In fact, in only 10 minutes, you could be enjoying the same protection you enjoy now, for a much smaller monthly cost.

All it takes is one call - we'll even fill the forms for you. If you want life cover at a price that won't shock you, call Direct Line today.



0845 3 000 233

CALL ANYTIME 8am to 8pm weekdays and 9am to 5pm weekends.

JCS. Ps and drum would nollised the stance. It not cord or igdom.

The bobbing pays off for a chubby-cheeked cherub

Andrew Reed looks fully ten years younger than the chubby-cheeked 33-year-old he is. Hair close-cropped in what his generation calls a Number Four cut, the dimple-faced MP for Loughborough resembles one of those cherubs on ancient maps, puffing the breeze from one corner of the canvas. His narrow victory last year in an apparently safe Tory seat must have surprised even his mother.

Educated (says Roth's *New MPs*) at the Riverside Infants' and Junior School, the young

aspirant they call Andy was described in *Red Pepper* as having "no politics whatever" — a keen Blairite, that is.

This had been a dreadful month for Andy. For three weeks he had been trying to get in at Prime Minister's Questions. We noticed him bobbing furiously up and down for a cumulative total of 90 minutes, face puckered with anticipation as Madam Speaker's glance fell to his left, to his right, behind and in front — but somehow never on him. Andy is not a big man, but he is visible. Why

Betty's blind spot? As March slipped by the young MP's spirits flagged.

Yesterday was the last day of the month. Andy had decided to be positive. If he was never to address the Prime Minister perhaps he should try the Deputy Prime Minister? So he arrived for Questions to John Prescott. If Reed resembles the cherub on the old map, Prescott resembles the sea-monster.

Wearing polished face and shiny silk tie, Andy began bobbing. Heart-rending to relate, reader, but still Miss



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

Boothroyd failed to see him. After half an hour of this torture we moved to Transport Questions.

Mr Prescott took the first. It was not (let us be candid) earth-shattering — the "operation of the rail rolling-stock market" — but Andy was not proud. Up he leaped. She ignored him.

The second question, also

about rail freight, was answered by Prescott's deputy, Gavin Strang, deputy to a deputy. Perhaps in the very slightest of sulks, Andy gave up trying to intervene. But the next question was taken by Mr Strang, too, and it seemed Prescott had finished for the day, so plucky Mr Reed swallowed his pride. If Strang was all he could get, Strang

would do. The next question was hardly a sizzler: the role of the car in rural areas. But if it was not to be Blair on the future of Britain it would have to be Strang on rural motor-ing. He bobbed up again.

Miss Boothroyd stared in Andy Reed's general direction and said "Mr. er..."

"She forgot my name," thought crestfallen Andy. "Er... Hanson." Mr Hanson was behind him.

Then she called a *Liberal Democrat* for heaven's sake! Then she looked at the Labour benches. Up bobbed Andy.

For a moment her eye seemed to light on him... and her gaze slewed to his left.

"Anne McGuire!" she called. After McGuire, Betty chose an Opposition spokesman, presumably to wrap things up.

To call Mr Reed woebegone understates. This was a suffering Reed. This was a broken Reed. Brow wreathed in frowns, his dimples quite gone, he shot a wounded glance at the Chair. The Opposition chappie frothed indignantly for a few minutes as Opposition chappies do.

Andy slumped on the bench. The exchange would be over now.

"Mr Reed," cooed Betty. Andy could not believe his ears! He leaped up, bubbling over with joyful news about joint partnerships with bus operators. We cannot quite remember what he said, but it sounded terribly positive.

And the minister was grateful. "My hon friend is absolutely right," he gushed.

He appeared to forget Andy's constituency. But a fellow can't expect everything at once.

Chancellor rejects call to ease rise in pound

By ALASDAIR MURRAY AND JANET BUSH

THE Chancellor yesterday dismissed calls for the Treasury to take immediate action to curb the surging pound, insisting that exporters must join the Government in taking a long-term view of the currency.

Gordon Brown told the Treasury Select Committee that it would be wrong to give into "short-term pressures" which could lead to the return of the "stop-go economy". Responding to allegations from the Committee that he was taking a complacent view of damage being wreaked by the strong currency, Mr Brown insisted that only his policies would ultimately ensure "a stable and competitive level" for sterling.

"It is not just Government but industry and exporters who need to take a long-term view," he said. Mr Brown's comments came as Adam Turner, director general of the Confederation of British Industry, called on the Bank of England's monetary policy committee to make the pound a key element when it debates

rise in the pound could not be blamed on a failure to take tough action. The Chancellor claimed the Budget had removed £17 billion from the economy — the sharpest fiscal tightening since 1981 — helping to restore the economy to a more sustainable pattern of growth. He added that much of the rise in the pound, which began before Labour took office, was due to cyclical economic factors and market concern over EMU, rather than the rises in interest rates since the election.

John Redwood, Shadow President of the Board of Trade, claimed however that the Chancellor's policy of taxing savers and industry had caused the problem.

Mr Turner told CBI members in Manchester last night that exporters had done all they could in the short term to ride the rise in the pound and it was now up to the Bank of England to signal that interest rates have peaked and allow sterling to begin to fall from its recent highs. Mr Turner told *The Times* that he understood that the MPC faced a difficult dilemma and that there were no easy policy solutions to the current strength of the pound. He said: "We are not calling for an immediate cut in rates but we are saying that the Bank needs to be aware of the significant impact of the pound on the export side of the economy." He urged the MPC to move as quickly as possible to shift financial market expectations for rates, signalling that the next move would be down rather than up in order to take some of the upward pressure off the pound.

Mr Turner said that he was not advocating early membership of the euro as a short-term measure to bring down the pound but merely restating the CBI's position that euro membership would be a positive step, in the right conditions. Kenneth Clarke, the former Chancellor, told a conference on economic and monetary union in Paris that no British government would take sterling into the European Exchange Rate Mechanism. He took issue with those who argue that the Maastricht Treaty requires countries wanting to join the euro to have participated in the ERM for two years.

Pound rises, page 23



Campbell: challenged journalists to prove that he had lied over telephone call

Campbell goes on attack

Continued from page 1
to justify his use of the word "lies". Mr Maude claimed the official spokes-

man had issued a denial which was "not true" when asked about the Prime Minister's conversation with Signor Prodi.

But when he briefed journalists yesterday morning Mr Campbell said: "There is no single person in this room who can say that I lied over the story. If there is I would like them to say it now."

He was not challenged because there was no evidence that he had lied. Early last week he never confirmed or denied whether the television deal had been raised in the conversation. But he did deny that Mr Blair had intervened to lobby for Mr Murdoch, pointing out that the call had been initiated by Signor Prodi.

The row has intensified Mr Blair's difficulties as he attempts to overturn in the Commons the move backed by the Lords to ban price cutting

campaigns by national newspapers such as *The Times*.

The anti-Murdoch mood has hardened among Labour MPs. In February the Government was defeated in the Lords when 23 Labour peers backed a Liberal Democrat amendment to the Competition Bill to ban price-cutting. But the Government has pledged to reverse the amendment when the Bill comes to the Commons. Its second reading has now been delayed till the end of April.

Regulator warns junk fax firm

By RAYMOND SNODDY, MEDIA EDITOR

TELECOM regulators have acted against a company that trawls thousands of telephone numbers to find another victim for its unsolicited faxes.

Don Cruickshank, in his last day as director general of Ofcom, the telecommunications regulator, yesterday told the British Fax Directory, a company using automated dialling systems to send large numbers of junk faxes, that it risks losing its licence.

Second Telecom, a related company, has been promoting tickets for the World Cup — provoking thousands of com-

plaints and a dressing-down. Callers find themselves locked in for nine minutes at premium rates. Missives from Second Telecom offer help obtaining World Cup tickets. The Football Association said most of the information was available from them or World Cup organisers.

British Fax calls whole ranges of numbers automatically to identify a fax machine which is then sent unsolicited faxes. Ofcom says that a company using such automated searching without the written consent of recipients is in breach of its licence.

It is hoped that measures giving Ofcom

the power to ban all junk faxes sent without permission will be contained in a European Union data protection directive expected in the summer.

ICSTIS previously upheld a complaint over a survey seeking public views on a Euro-referendum. The regulatory body was concerned about the duration of the premium calls.

Gordon Ritchie, managing director of British Fax, said yesterday that he would be consulting his lawyers over the Ofcom decision, but noted that he already had all the fax numbers in London that he wanted — though not for the rest of the country.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Straw tackles abuses of police pensions

Police officers in their middle years who have lost interest in their jobs could be given a "bounty" to leave the force early, under reforms announced by Jack Straw. Unveiling consultation papers for the reform of pensions schemes for police and firefighters, the Home Secretary said that both services had unacceptably high sickness-pension claims.

The Home Secretary's decision to examine the bounty scheme follows a report by the Inspector of Constabulary on the costs of ill-health pensions. Research released yesterday shows that 45 per cent of all police pensions are paid out for early retirements because of ill health. Senior officers are concerned that some officers cling on until they can get full pensions on the ground of sickness after 26 years.

Empty offices cost £500m

A committee of MPs will attack the Government today for allowing £500 million of public money to be spent on empty offices since 1990. The amount of office space involved is equivalent to a development 50 per cent bigger than Canary Wharf in East London. The MPs are also alarmed that it cost a further £260 million to dispose of them. David Davis, Tory chairman of the Commons Public Accounts Committee, called it a "wholly unacceptable" waste.

£1.25m crash damages

A mother of three has been awarded record compensation of £1.25 million for whiplash injuries suffered when her stationary car was shunted from behind. The former nurse, from Manchester, who is 43 and does not want to be named, was left disabled when her spinal injuries developed into fibromyalgia, a chronic condition. The sum was agreed in an out-of-court settlement. The accident, which happened in 1988, jarred her spine and damaged her nervous system.

Killer's mental health

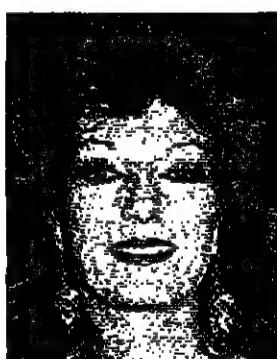
The mother of the man accused of murdering judge's daughter Rachel McGrath has described to a court how she watched her son's mental health deteriorate. Kathleen Burton, of New Mills, Derbyshire, said that the behaviour of her son Nicholas began to change in 1991, following the break-up of a relationship with a girlfriend and his gradual use of hard drugs. Burton, 28, a sheet metal worker, denies murdering Miss McGrath.

Forecourt screen ads

Television advertisers plan to target motorists on petrol station forecourts with strategically placed screens as they fill up. Forecourt Television plans to install 52in screens in 1,000 filling station forecourts. A pilot scheme in London and the South with the new advertising medium has produced a big increase in sales in forecourt shops with chocolate bars up 14.8 per cent, general confectionery 31 per cent and ice-cream 22 per cent.

Lenska granted divorce

The actress Rula Lenska, right, has been granted a divorce from her actor husband Dennis Waterman, 50. The couple, who met on the set of the television series *Minder* in 1982, split up last May. Rula, 49, was granted a divorce at Somerset House on the grounds of her partner's unreasonable behaviour. Waterman, 50, was married for three years in his early 20s to a schoolteacher.



Bid to save D'Oyly Carte

MPs and peers will today join forces in a call for Government action to save the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company. The 120-year-old group specialising in Gilbert and Sullivan has mounting debts of more than £1 million and says it could be forced to close within months. Although most of its funding comes from the private sector, it has failed to secure permanent support from any public bodies.

demon@beck.and.call

no-one makes it easier for you to get on-line than demon, europe's no.1 independent internet service provider.

so if you need any help when you're starting up, our support line provides it, 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year.

for your free 30-day trial cd and brochure, call us on 0800 458 9666, or scribble your name and address

anywhere on this ad, then tear it out and send it to us at freepost demon (yes, that's all you have to write).

it really is that simple, only easier.



Demon Internet

more people get on with us

0800 458 9666

TT0104A

www.demon.net email: sales@demon.net

Wren tells of affair with colonel

Continued from page 1
Colonel Pople abruptly ended the relationship, she claimed, in June 1996 on a first-class train journey to London where he was to buy shirts, suits and ties from Gieves and Hawkes to take up his new appointment at the Army Air Corps. He later moved to the base in Warrington, Suffolk, with his wife.

Although the officer said she was initially the more upset, throwing his clothes down the stairs at her flat in Nyewood, West Sussex, she claimed that they had sex the next day and he later regretted the decision, becoming angry when she resumed her relationship with Lieutenant McTear and plugging her with persistent telephone calls and letters.

In November 1996, she claimed, they had one platonic evening together at her home where he cooked prawns before retiring to separate rooms. But the court martial heard, next morning he appeared naked at her bedside door.

She told the hearing: "He came into my bedroom, lay down on my bed next to me and started to masturbate. He said 'get your pink friend out' referring to a vibrator that he had bought for me."

She claimed he ordered her to arouse herself and she did and she was told to get rid of him, although she was shocked. A few days later, she claimed, Lieutenant Colonel Pople rang again demanding all his love letters back, announcing with military precision that he would arrive on her doorstep at 0800 on November 24. She said: "He said



Lieutenant Colonel Pople and Lieutenant Commander Pearce (circled) at a formal Whitehall meeting and, below right, his wife Brenda

that if I didn't accede to this he would do something to me so horrible that I wouldn't believe it even as he was doing it and it would leave me in tatters. He was clearly very angry, he frightened and intimidated me and I felt bullied and scared. I hadn't really come across him as this sort of person ever before."

In these earlier letters, the court martial heard, he wrote: "May you be the happiest girl on earth, dearest and most

wicked witch. My wonderful love for you, the only love of my life, you will be with me for ever decorated with spectacular memories and like Lear's Fool I will never stop hoping and waiting for the telephone to ring." His pet names also included "wonderful beileged one".

His mood when retrieving them was, by contrast, "aggressive" and hostile, she claimed, and he left promising to destroy them. She finally

complained to her senior officers about his alleged harassment a month later after an hour-long telephone call at her new office in Portsmouth where he called her after a drinking session.

The officer claimed Lieutenant Colonel Pople threatened to expose her latest relationship with Lieutenant McTear to three tabloid newspapers, to her friends and to a senior naval officer. "He said he hated me, he said that I was a

bitch, a liar a cheat and that I had to be taught a lesson. He kept repeating that I couldn't be allowed to treat men like this."

"He said he was going to write to the Second Sea Lord 'so you had better get to know the secretary to the Second Sea Lord, although you have probably already slept with him.' All the way through this he was laughing in what I can only describe as a 'joker-type' laugh, really intimidating and

frightening. "Lieutenant Colonel Chris Armstrong, for the prosecution, said Pople was motivated throughout by "hatred of rejection".

Lieutenant Colonel Pople, his wife Brenda sitting opposite him throughout the evidence, sat erect before the five-member panel in his khaki uniform with an escort behind carrying his cap and leather belt. The hearing continues today.



Move to control date-rape tablets

By RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

TOUGH new curbs are to be imposed on the "date rape" drug Rohypnol amid growing concern that women have been sexually attacked after consuming spiked drinks.

The tiny diamond-shaped purple tablet is so fast-acting that a woman given it would rarely remember anything of a subsequent assault.

Until three months ago Rohypnol was colourless when ground up but Roche, the manufacturers, changed its makeup so that it now releases a blue dye when dissolved. Rohypnol, known on the streets as Roofie, can induce a trance-like state within 15 minutes. It is tasteless and odourless.

From May 1, it will be a criminal offence to possess flunitrazepam, which is usually sold under its trade name of Rohypnol. Anyone convicted of possessing the drug without prescription faces a maximum penalty of two years' imprisonment, an unlimited fine or both.

Pharmacies and warehouses will be required to store the drug, prescribed as a sleeping tablet, more securely and import and export licences will also be required.

Pupils go to aid of headmaster after assault

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

CHILDREN formed a human shield to protect their headmaster after he was punched to the ground and left in agony by an intruder.

Len Wild had raced out of his office to confront three men who were threatening teenage pupils in the playground at the Mitchell High School, Stoke-on-Trent. But it was the children who came to their headmaster's aid when one of the men hit Mr Wild in the face and he fell on flagstones in front of the school.

At least a dozen boys and girls, none older than 16, formed a protective ring around Mr Wild and his attacker fled. The injured headmaster, who is in his mid-50s, had an operation yesterday on his knee and will have to spend another week recovering in hospital.

Maurice Lewis, the chairman of governors, said: "When I heard about the attack, the image of Philip Lawrence flashed before my eyes." Mr Lawrence, a West London headmaster, was stabbed and killed by a thug when he broke up a fight outside his school gates in 1995.

The attack on Mr Wild happened at lunchtime on Monday inside the school grounds. Police are still looking for the three men, all in their early 20s, who were caught on the school's security camera system.

Mr Lawrence's death and the Dunblane tragedy that followed March were followed by a national debate about school safety. Many schools installed video cameras, security doors and fences. The Mitchell High School, a 500-pupil comprehensive, could not afford to fence in its six-acre grounds but bought cameras five years ago.

Mr Lewis said that two of the trespassers had run off

when Mr Wild came out to confront them, but the third squared up to him. "These three yobboes came onto the school premises and were threatening some pupils. The pupils were very frightened," said Mr Lewis.

"Mr Wild dashed out to protect the pupils, as I would expect him to do. Two of them ran off but the other decided to stand his ground. He punched Mr Wild in the face."

"The kids immediately encircled him to protect him from any further attack. Knowing the children, they would do that, and knowing Mr Wild, he would not think about himself. The first thing he would think about is the children — and conversely as soon as they saw Mr Wild was in trouble, they did the same. They were great."

The school spent £8,000 on a security camera system five years ago because its extensive grounds are used as a shortcut between estates. Senior teachers have walkie-talkies.

A school inspectors' report to be published today says: "While the extensive open campus is vulnerable to intrusion, security measures together with considerable community use of the school have reduced the problem."



Wild: had run out to confront intruders



Darren Steele: seemed happier recently

Boy found hanged wrote of bullying

By PHILIP DELVES
BROUGHTON

POLICE are to interview the classmates of a 15-year-old schoolboy who was found hanged in his bedroom over the weekend. Darren Steele, 15, left a three-page note detailing how and by whom he had allegedly been bullied.

Darren was a pupil at de Ferrers High School in Burton upon Trent and was due to take GCSEs this summer. He had seemed happier in recent months, even returning to sing in his local church choir. As it turned out, however, the bullying had never really stopped. On his way back from school on Friday, his family says he was threatened by two boys.

A spokesman for Staffordshire police said: "Discovered at the scene was a handwritten note on which he refers to instances of bullying by his peers." Darren's fellow pupils will be interviewed with the consent of their parents.

Michael York, the headmaster, said, yesterday: "The pupils and staff are devastated. We are helping the police in every way we can."

It is the second tragedy to hit the school in a fortnight. On March 15, Kevin Houston, a supply teacher, was found dead in his car, also after an apparent suicide.

Body parts 'carried inside bin liners on Central Line'

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

UNSUSPECTING passengers may have sat next to pieces of disembodied bodies as they were carried across London inside a rucksack during the rush hour on the Tube, it was alleged yesterday.

Preserved pieces of limbs, torso and heads in bin liners were carried on the Central Line from the Royal College of Surgeons to sculptor Anthony Noel Kelly's West London studio, Southwark Crown Court was told.

Up to 40 body parts were stored in tea chests at the flat before being used to make

exact copies of the anatomical specimens for gill-covered sculptures. Their bizarre journey emerged as Mr Kelly, 42, from Clapham, South London, was cross-examined by Andrew Campbell-Tiech, for the prosecution. The artist agreed that Niel Lindsay, a laboratory assistant at the RCS, often delivered specimens to his flat after work.

"Did you believe that was a particularly respectful way to transport body parts, in dustbin liners to an artist's studio?" Mr Campbell-Tiech asked.

"I know it sounds strange,

but they were not disrespectfully put into black bags. They were in transit to somewhere where they were going to be used with integrity," Mr Kelly said. He told the jury that the deliveries, for which he paid Mr Lindsay £400, stopped when the latter left his job and returned to South Africa. "I felt I had an alphabet of bodies so I could create pieces," he said.

Mr Kelly and Mr Lindsay, 25, both deny theft from the RCS. Mr Kelly denies one further count of handling stolen goods.

The trial continues.

If you're really unlucky

you could get 20% over 5½ years.

The Abbey National Safety Plus PEP (Issue III)

We freely admit that would be rather bad luck. You see, the Safety Plus PEP is no ordinary PEP. If you have £1000 or more to invest over 5½ years you have the potential, depending on the performance of the stockmarket, to earn anything up to 6.75% every 6 months. And we'll lock in any gains for you at the end of each 6 month period.

Of course the stockmarket could fall. Disaster? No. There's a safety net. We aim to provide a minimum return of 20% plus your original capital tax-free over the full 5½ years.**

Naturally, being a respected unit trust PEP provider (and the 6th largest), we promise to transfer your PEP to an Individual Savings Account (ISA) free of charge in 1999, to help you hang on to your tax-free allowances (subject to government confirmation of the ISA rules).

If you'd like to find out more, we're happy to provide advice, or simply provide an information pack and application form. Either way, the Safety Plus PEP is only available until Saturday 18th April (unless fully subscribed earlier) so visit any Abbey National branch or call Abbey National Direct today, to reserve your funds, quoting reference A636. Lines are open Monday to Friday 8am to 9pm, Saturday 8am to 4pm.

0800 30 20 30



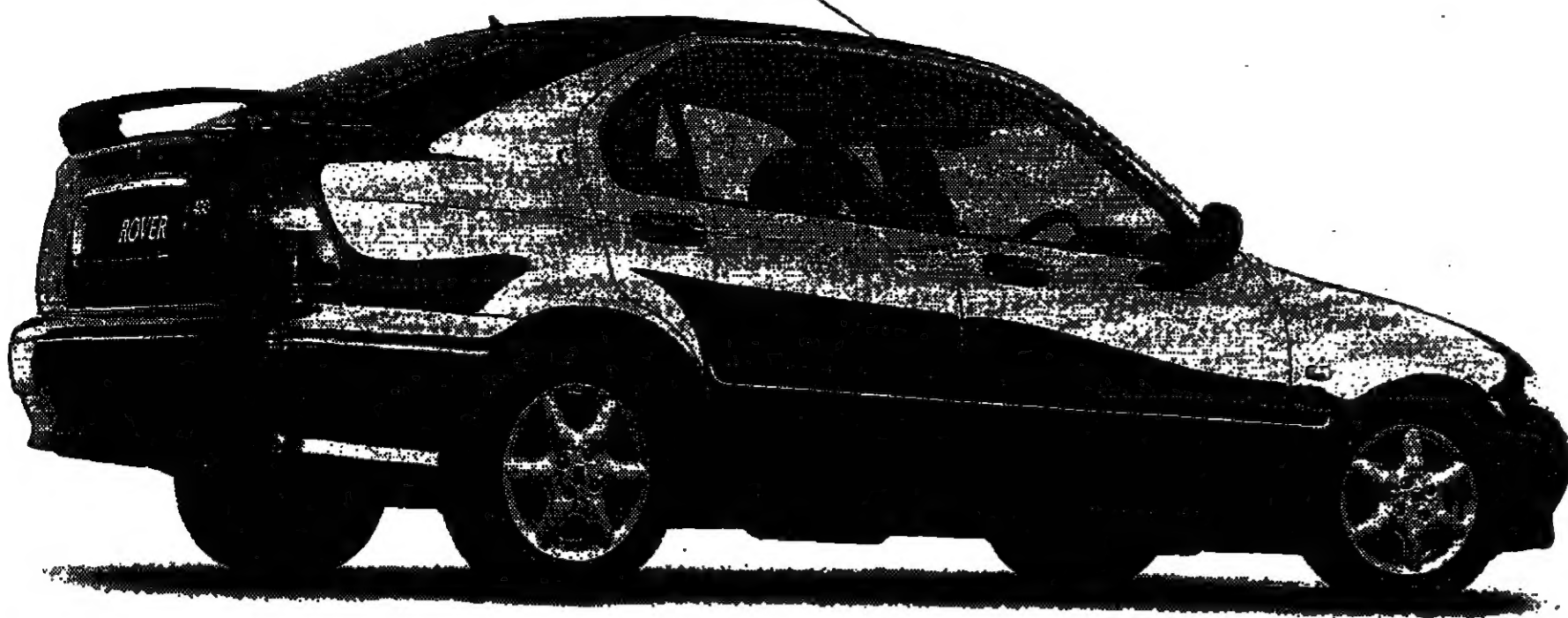
ABBNEY NATIONAL®

Because life's complicated enough.

Saving and Investing

P79

ABBNEY NATIONAL PLC, WHICH IS REGULATED BY THE PERSONAL INVESTMENT AUTHORITY, ONLY SELLS ITS OWN LIFE ASSURANCE, PENSION AND UNIT TRUST PRODUCTS. Source: Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds based on funds under management December 1997. The Government have proposed details for the new 'Individual Savings Account' designed to replace PEPs and TESSAs. Under the proposals, investors could continue to invest in PEPs up to April 1999. Between April 1999 and October 1999, PEP investors would be able to transfer their funds to the new ISA, up to a maximum amount to be determined by the Government. Any PEP investment transferred to an ISA would continue to enjoy tax-free growth and/or income. Investors not able, or not wishing, to transfer their PEPs to an ISA would have until October 1999 to make alternative arrangements, or simply allow their investments to run without the benefit of PEP or ISA tax advantages. Please note that the Government's proposals have not been finalised and may be subject to change. *Whilst 6.75% growth is attainable and has been attained in some six-monthly periods in the past, it is highly unlikely that it would be attained in all 11 six-monthly periods covering the term of the investment. **The Abbey National Safety Plus PEP (Issue III) is not a guaranteed investment. Full details can be found in our product literature. The value of investments may fall as well as rise, is not guaranteed, and therefore you may not get back the full amount you invest. Your reservation will lapse if your application is not received within 5 working days. To assist us in improving our service, we may record or monitor telephone calls. Abbey National, the Umbrella Couple symbol and Because life's complicated enough are trademarks of Abbey National plc, Abbey House, Baker Street, London NW1 6XT, United Kingdom.



**ALLOYS, FOGS AND
SPOILER MAKE THE
ROVER 414S 16v
HIGHLY DESIRABLE.**

**A PRICE OF
£12,000 MAKES
IT ALMOST
IRRESISTIBLE.**

The most remarkable thing about the price of this car is not that you're getting all these features. But the fact you're getting a Rover.

For more information call 0345 186 186, or visit www.rovercars.com.



CAR SHOWN ROVER 414S 16v 5 Door £12,000 ON THE ROAD. PRICE CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS. SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY.

مركزنا من الأصا

Pilot is hailed for soccer team crash-landing

Leeds United manager shares the praise after players escape the burning aircraft, reports Paul Wilkinson

THE veteran pilot of an aircraft carrying the Leeds United football team was hailed a hero yesterday after he averted disaster by managing to crash-land his burning aircraft only seconds after it left the runway.

The team's assistant manager, David O'Leary, was also praised for his coolness in forcing open an emergency exit for players to escape, injuring his shoulder in the process.

Captain John Hackett, 61 and one of the oldest commercial airline pilots, told his passengers afterwards that if he had circled to make a fresh landing approach the aircraft, loaded with its tonnes of aviation fuel, would probably have blown up.

Instead he aborted the charter flight just 150ft off the ground after the starboard engine had exploded on take-off. He succeeded in getting the BAe 748 turbo-prop down only yards from the end of the runway. It ran into soft ground, breaking off the front wheel, and came to rest nose-down in the grass.

Gunner Hall, the club's



O'Leary: was the first to force open an exit

Norwegian international, praised the actions of the pilot and Mr O'Leary, who had been sitting next to the central exit. He said: "David kept everyone's spirits up. He was a real hero. I think everybody knew how serious it could have been. He was the first one to his feet and charged the exit so we could all get out safely. The flames were still burning fiercely when we climbed out. We all thought the plane was going to explode."

Mr O'Leary, a former

Arsenal player and Irish international, said: "There was a big explosion. We went up a bit and all of a sudden it was like a roller-coaster. We hit the ground with a big thud and I was bounced up and hit the ceiling. When you look at the plane, it's amazing we all got out."

As fire crews at Stansted Airport put out the flames, the 44 people on board escaped through emergency exits. Two suffered minor injuries.

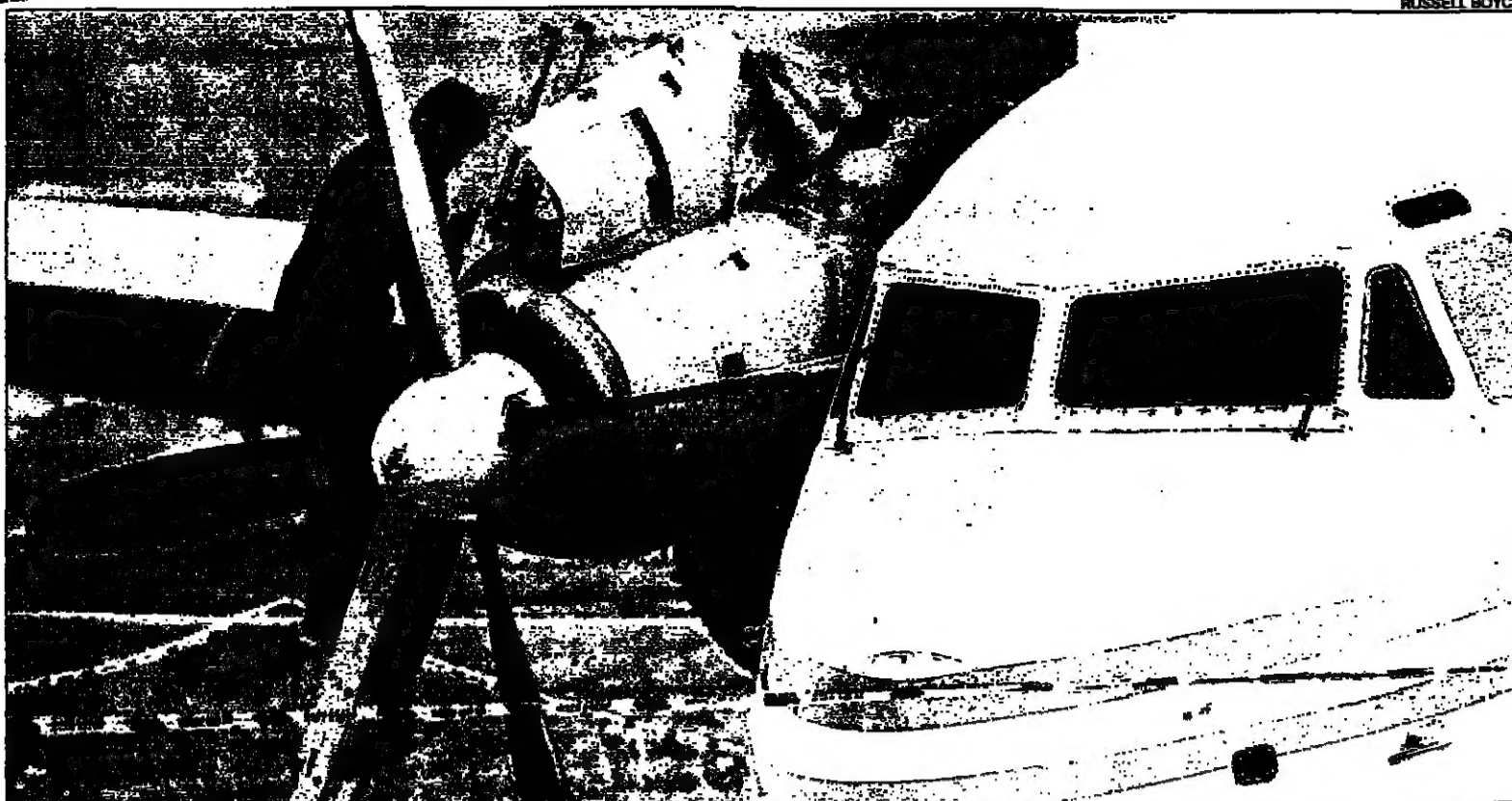
Captain Hackett is believed to be the most experienced 748 pilot in Britain. He has been with the aircraft's operators, Liverpool-based Emerald Airways, since it launched in 1990. Previously he had worked with Dan Air.

Yesterday he and his co-pilot Gary Lucas, and cabin crew Helen Dunton and Nicola Miles, were recovering from shock at their homes on Merseyside. An airline spokesman said: "They are all very badly shaken."

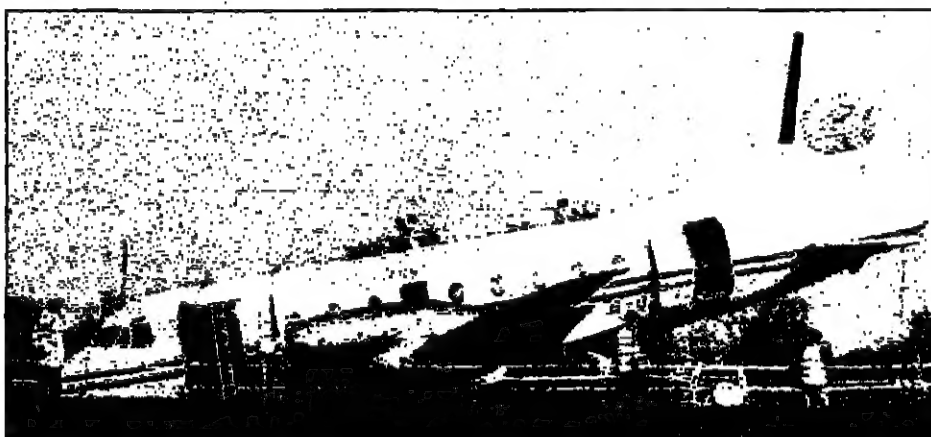
The incident happened as the Leeds team, worth a total transfer value of about £47 million, set off for Leeds/Bradford airport from Stansted early yesterday after its 3-0 defeat at West Ham the previous evening.

Afterwards people said the incident brought back memories of the Munich air disaster in February 1958 ago, when an aircraft carrying a victorious Manchester United team home from a European Cup quarter final in Belgrade slid off a shush-covered runway and crashed in flames. The crash killed 23 people, including eight United players.

Peter Ridsdale, 46, the Leeds chairman, said yesterday: "One of the players said, 'We have had a hell of a result tonight', and he wasn't talking about Upton Park."



Technicians inspect the burnt-out engine of the BAe 748 at Stansted airport, yesterday. The pilot managed to land the aircraft in soft grass



"I was sitting in the centre of the plane, and just as the wheels started to leave the ground I saw flames coming from the engine. A few seconds later there was a large explosion and the whole engine went up in flames."

"At that stage we were still climbing. Almost immediately a buzzer went off and a stewardess said we were going to make an emergency landing and would we please be braced. We knew we were coming down. The flames were getting worse."

"I could feel the heat on my right shoulder. You know the plane is full of fuel and you just hope you land before it explodes. The crew are heroes."

The pilot subsequently told me he wouldn't have had time to go round again. He reckoned 30 seconds longer and the plane would have been up in flames."

The passengers included 18 players, club officials and directors, corporate guests, journalists, a guest's teenage daughter and Mr Ridsdale's 13-year-old son, Matthew. George Graham, the Leeds manager, had stayed in London overnight.

One passenger, John Kennedy, from Pocklington, East Yorkshire, said: "David O'Leary acted very swiftly to get the first door open and the cabin crew were marvellous."

A former colleague described Mr Hackett as "a good pilot who always passed all his checks." Mike Nash, the former fleet manager of Dan Air's 748 series, said that Mr Hackett, who had worked for Dan Air from 1985 to 1990, had become a pilot relatively late, switching from a position as sales manager for a major airline to a new career as a first officer when he was in his late 30s.

Captain Hackett's wife, Diane, speaking on the doorstep of the couple's Staffordshire farmhouse, said: "I'm very relieved it has ended this way. We all know how dangerous it could have been. He is a very experienced and very calm man."

Instant decision ignored textbook

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

CAPTAIN John Hackett was forced to ignore textbook instructions as he faced the risk of a calamitous mid-air explosion.

Even failure of a single engine would normally have allowed him to continue the take-off, put out a mayday alert and bank the aircraft round to land on the runway in the opposite direction.

Reports of an explosion and flames in the starboard engine at the point of take-off suggest that Captain Hackett had no such option. Within seconds of take-off, he took the drastic decision to "dump" his 748 turbo-prop.

With probably fewer than 200 yards of runway left, he had to land the plane heavily to bring it to a halt. In doing so, the plane lurched to its port side, but his action was enough to stop the Emerald Airways aircraft only yards from the end of the runway.

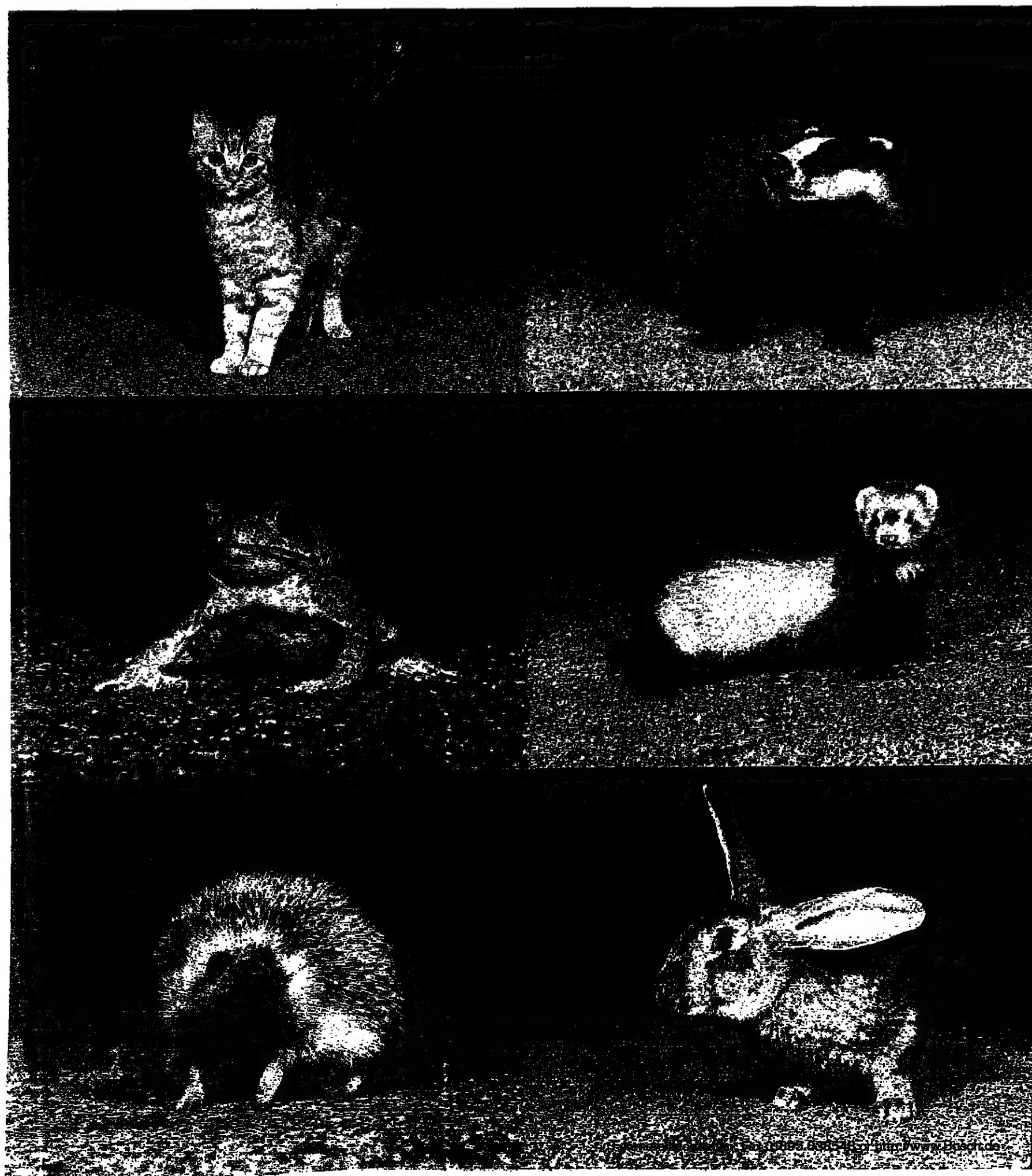
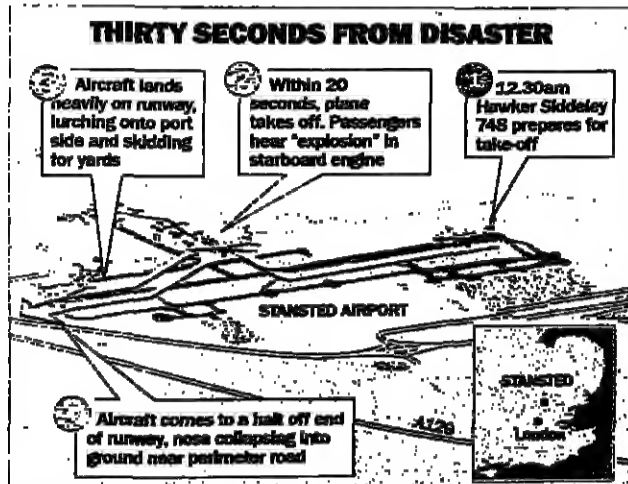
Passengers and crew escaped almost unscathed, without using manual emergency

chutes. Youthful members of the Leeds United party were able to jump from an emergency exit about 15ft above the ground.

Air accident inspectors were yesterday investigating reports from passengers that there was an unusually strong smell of fuel shortly before take-off.

Mick O'Brien, of Emerald Airways, said: "Shortly after take-off, at a height of approximately 150ft, the starboard engine failed and the pilot immediately landed the aircraft. The aircraft overshot the runway and the nose gear collapsed. Evacuation of all the passengers and crew took approximately 30 seconds. The pilot did extremely well to land the aircraft in a difficult situation. Members of the crew performed a textbook evacuation of the aircraft."

The 15-year-old aircraft, which has flown 17,200 hours, would have been expected to continue in service for at least another ten years.



More and more road users are growing to appreciate our headlight technology

The road at night is full of surprises. A fraction of a second can be the only difference between being seen or being seen no more.

Fortunately, the drive to make driving at night safer is being led by Bosch. Take our latest bright idea, the Xenon headlight Litronic. Unlike previous systems, it doesn't have an incandescent bulb. Instead, there's an electronically controlled gaseous-discharge lamp that leaves even halogen headlights in the dark. In fact, the light provided by Xenon is closer to daylight so it's less tiring on the eyes. And because Litronic illuminates the road better, particularly at the side of the road and on bends, you can actually see things a lot clearer. This should bring a little light relief to every road user, however small.

Bosch. We bring innovation



BOSCH

Brother heard skipper's last words

An inquiry has been told of a radio call as a trawler sank, reports Shirley English

THE brother of a fisherman who died with three others when their trawler sank described yesterday how they had talked by radio just moments before the boat went down.

Gordon Pattison, 36, giving evidence at the fatal accident inquiry at Aberdeen Sheriff Court, said he had been fishing on another trawler nearby when he spoke to his brother George, 38, the skipper of the *Westhaven*, by radio on March 10 last year. As they were talking, the nets became snagged.

Mr Pattison told the court: "He [George] said he had become fast on something on the seabed. I said to

look on the charts to see if there were any wrecks nearby. He said there was nothing at all."

Mr Pattison said he had not been worried as trawlers' nets frequently got caught up during trips and usually freed themselves. However, he was unable to make contact with his brother again and 12 hours later he learned the *Westhaven* had gone down. His brother died, along with the first-mate Mark Hannah, 30, and crewmen Christopher Prouse, 23, and Alan Cunningham, 28.

Mr Pattison said his brother was

"quite a good skipper" but was still getting used to the boat which he bought in December 1996. He had decided to keep the vessel's original name *Westhaven* but had changed its registration number and registered it with the Marine Safety Agency between Christmas and New Year.

Earlier the court heard that a mix-up in the registration numbers of the emergency distress beacons led to hours of delay before a search was launched for the vessel.

Coastguards had received a dis-

tress call in the morning, but mistakenly thought it was coming from another vessel, also called *Westhaven*, fishing nearby.

Danny Buchan, skipper of the second *Westhaven* and former owner of the sunken vessel, said he was about 100 miles off the northeast coast of Scotland when he was radioed by coastguards who asked him to check whether his emergency beacon had gone off. He told them it was not transmitting.

The coastguards continued to receive a signal which they again

traced to Mr Buchan. He was told to disconnect his beacon, wrap it in tinfoil and put it in the engine room, but after doing so the coastguard continued to receive distress calls. Mr Buchan, of Fraserburgh, claimed that between 1pm and 2pm he twice told the coastguard controller that he had sold his old boat, which had the same name.

Later that day, the coastguards told him they had found lifebelts marked *Westhaven*. When he confirmed that his lifebelts were still on board, a search was launched.

The *Westhaven* is believed to have sunk after its fishing gear became snagged on a pipeline. Yesterday sub-aqua video camera footage taken the day after the accident showed one of the metal trawl doors had become trapped behind the pipeline with its trawl chain underneath the structure.

Mark Lindsay, representing the Coastguard Agency and the Marine Safety Agency, asked Mr Buchan whether it was possible that he had informed coastguards he had sold his boat at 8.45pm rather than in the early afternoon, but Mr Buchan said he could not remember.

The inquiry continues.

Reprieve given to A levels in minority languages

By JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

A LEVELS in a dozen minority languages that were to be discontinued because of a shortage of candidates and examiners were reprieved yesterday after a deal between government advisers and the examining boards.

The languages include modern Hebrew and Greek, Bengali, Punjabi, Chinese and Japanese. Numbers taking the examinations had dwindled to fewer than 100 in some cases, but ethnic communities had lobbied to preserve courses as part of their culture.

After talks with the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA), three examining consortia have divided the languages between them and guaranteed to continue providing syllabuses. The QCA has launched an appeal for speakers of the languages to act as examiners or to join panels that set questions.

Nick Tate, chief executive of the QCA, said the agreement would secure the future of the examinations into the next decade. "Although the numbers involved are small, it is the mark of a civilised country that it seeks to protect the interests of minority groups keen to maintain their own traditions within society."

The smallest entries last year among the affected languages were 40 candidates taking Dutch and 51 taking modern Hebrew. The largest was 272 for modern Greek.

Under the new arrangements, the Assessment and Qualifications Alliance will offer Bengali, modern Hebrew, Punjabi, modern Hindi, Urdu, Gujarati, Portuguese and Turkish.

The announcement was welcomed by Don Foster, for the Liberal Democrats, who had lobbied for Bengali in particular. Laurie Rosenberg, of the Board of Deputies for British Jews, said the safeguarding of Hebrew would give the Jewish community confidence that their religious and cultural needs were considered.

Tobacco firms accused over low-tar brands

By MARK HENDERSON

TOBACCO companies have been promoting low-tar cigarettes as a "healthy option" for smokers for more than 20 years despite knowing they are no safer than conventional brands, anti-smoking campaigners said yesterday.

Companies such as Philip Morris and BAT discovered as early as 1975 that smokers "compensate" for low-tar cigarettes by inhaling more deeply or covering holes in filters, yet continued to advertise the health benefits of switching to a mild brand, according to documents obtained by ASH (Action on Smoking and Health) and the Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

Internal documents released during American litigation prove the companies played a "grotesque confidence trick" on millions of smokers who switched to low-tar brands rather than giving up, the campaigners said. Advertising was aimed at convincing smokers that mild cigarettes presented less risk, to reduce the incentive to quit.

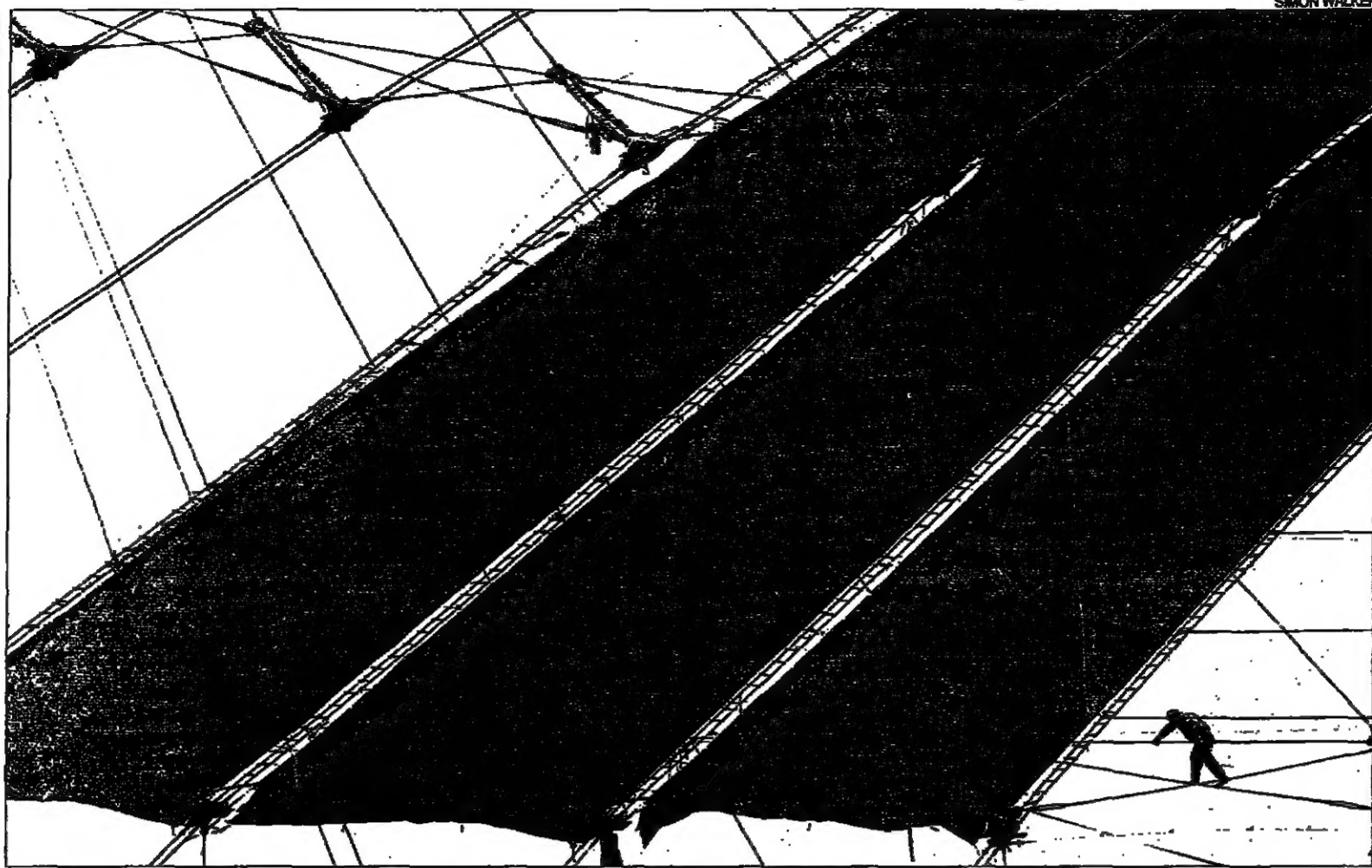
A 1971 BAT document says: "Manufacturers are concentrating on the low TPM [tar] and nicotine segment in order to create brands... which aim, in one way or another, to reassure the consumer that these brands are relatively more 'healthy' than orthodox blended cigarettes." Accord-

ing to another of the documents, Philip Morris knew in 1975 that Marlboro Lights smokers inhaled no less smoke than those who smoked regular Marlboros.

American research published last year blamed low-tar cigarettes that are inhaled more deeply for a rise in adenocarcinomas, a previously rare cancer that develops in peripheral parts of the lung. Publicans hope to avert a California-style ban on smoking in public places by installing modern ventilation systems in every pub.

Pub industry groups met yesterday to discuss ways of "removing the smoke, not the smoker" to protect bar staff and customers from passive smoking. Organisers spoke of a "third way" between the free-for-all advocated by smoking apologists and the outright ban urged by medical and anti-tobacco groups.

Nick Bish, of the Association of Licensed Multiple Retailers, which represents 83 pub companies with 13,000 pubs and bars, said a ban would be unfair on the 47 per cent of pubgoers who smoke and unnecessary for health reasons. "The debate over passive smoking has ignored ventilation, which is disappointing because modern technology can tackle the problem," he said.



Weather permitting, a worker is silhouetted 150ft above the ground as the delicate task of roofing the Millennium Dome goes ahead

Man and nature vie to raise the roof

WORKERS on the Millennium Dome were yesterday keeping a weather eye on the wind as they unfurled the Teflon coating which will form the roof (writes Dominic Kennedy). The operation, which should be completed by midsummer, depends heavily on how badly the weather batters the exposed peninsula in Greenwich,

south London, where gusts can reach 45mph. Daniel Piatek, the UK general manager of Birdair, the construction firm which won the £14 million contract, said forecasts were being checked every two hours. If a high wind rose as the roof's 1.5 mm fabric was being laid, his men could secure the material in minutes, avoiding the

risk of damage or injury 150ft above the ground. Mr Piatek was confident that the job could be done. "We have to deal with the weather," he said. "A lot depends on the type of wind. If it is a steady wind it is not as serious as if it is in gusts. If it is a cross-wind to our work it is different from a direct wind. Above 25mph we take certain precau-

tions. Above 35mph we take other precautions and maybe stop." Birdair, based in Buffalo, New York, won the contract to cover the roof with self-cleaning Teflon-coated glass yarn, which has a life of 25 years, after Greenpeace objected to an original plan to use PVC, which the environmentalists condemn.

Transig brings together the engineering resources of two of the UK's foremost signalling companies with the expertise of a world leader in engineering project management.

Railtrack is committed to building a railway network fit for the 21st Century. Its £2.1 billion modernisation of the West Coast Main Line requires a Train Control System that allows high speed trains to run safely and efficiently over one of Europe's busiest mixed traffic railways. Transig is dedicated to delivering this system.

West Coast Main Line modernisation is a complex and time critical project. Contractors will need to work together with Railtrack and industry partners to achieve results on time with minimum disruption to the network. Transig's project risk management team has proven expertise in structuring cooperative ventures and achieving best results for client and contractors.

Transig: a committed, tailor-made team, with a partnership approach, proven expertise and the ability to deliver.

Transig has the capacity and the application resources to deliver a safe and effective Train Control System to Railtrack, within budget, to agreed specification and on time.

Transig

Working in partnership for the West Coast Main Line

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

RICHARD BRANSON IS GOING TO GIVE SOMEONE A STAKE IN THE FORTUNES OF HIS VIRGIN COLA BUSINESS AND THE CHANCE TO BECOME A MILLIONAIRE.

MORE DETAILS WILL BE AVAILABLE LATER THIS WEEK.

Virgin
Cola

01.04.98

Cellnet Traffic Line

Tells you when there's traffic ahead.

(Sorry, Gordon, it only works on roads.)

Cellnet's new Traffic Line is a new service which
TrafficLine enables you to receive a series of messages from the
Sensors on the motorway pinpoint the location of the jams,
and a special handset kit displays the location of
your car.

If you are heading towards a jam, the Traffic Line will
boop. You then call 1200 on a hands-free telephone for a
report on the length and position of the jam.

The new kit, including a hands-free mobile phone, costs
from just £29.99 from the dealers listed below.

If you're already a Cellnet digital customer you can
buy the unit separately.

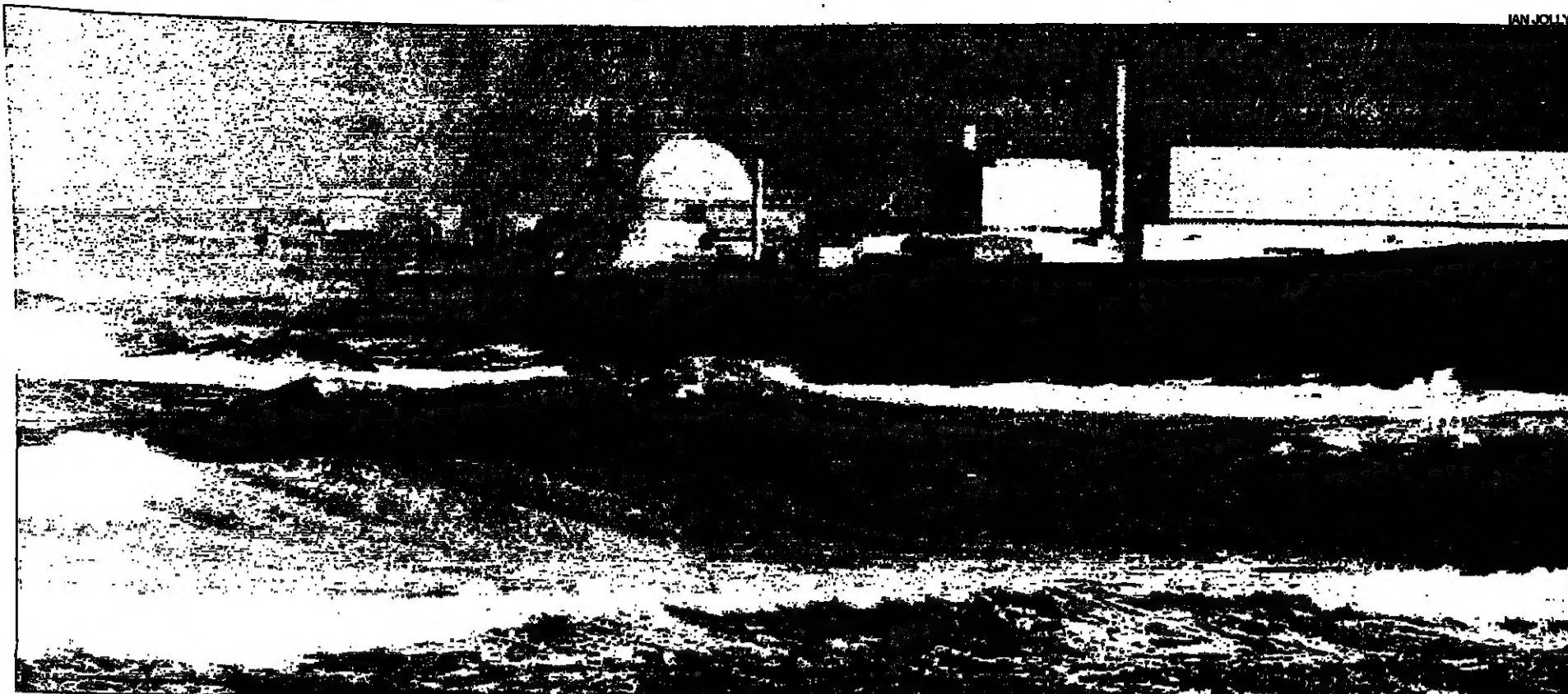
Unfortunately for Gordon, Cellnet Traffic Line doesn't
work on Grand Prix circuits. But at least it can help you
get to the racetrack on time.

Available from The Link, Avon, BT Learning, Carphone
Carphone Warehouse, The Mobile Shop, RSCG,
BT Communication Centre and other participating dealers.

For details on how to get this service call 0800 21 4100

on the  cellnet it's in your hands

Deadly legacy must be unearthed



Dounreay, on the north coast of Scotland, where hazardous waste was stored in a shaft for decades. The Government has accepted advice that it should be retrieved

**Minister admits
Dounreay shaft
is not safe
place for
waste, reports
Nick Nuttall**

HAZARDOUS nuclear waste was dumped down a shaft on the coast of northern Scotland decades ago is to be retrieved using a robot, the government announced yesterday.

Environmental campaigners hailed the decision to undertake the pioneering project as a victory. It will take 25 years and cost up to £355 million.

Between 1958 and 1977 an estimated 775 cubic metres of nuclear and toxic waste, including contaminated equipment, was dumped down a 200ft shaft which had not been designed to hold radioactive materials. The dumping was halted in the late 1970s after an explosion caused by the build-up of hydrogen gas.

Campaigners have claimed that the mixture of radioactive

materials — the wastes from Dounreay's now cancelled fast-breeder reactors — the geography of the site and the flooding of water into the shaft, still constituted an environmental hazard, with wastes escaping to the sea and the threat of another explosion.

Yesterday John Battle, the Energy Minister, announced

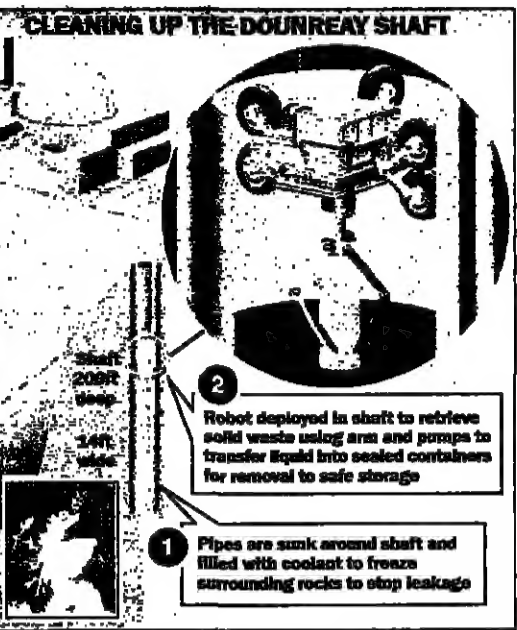
that the Government was acting on the advice of the UK Atomic Energy Authority. He told the Commons that their recommendation "that the radioactive waste in the Dounreay Intermediate Level Waste Shaft and in the Wet Silo should be retrieved for treatment and storage has been accepted by the Government."

"It is clear that the shaft

does not provide standards of waste disposal that are acceptable today and that retrieval is the best practicable environmental option. It has the support of the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, the Radioactive Waste Management Advisory Committee and the Committee on Medical Aspects of Radiation

in the Environment. Special interest groups have also shown support of the retrieval option," said Mr Battle.

Sandy McWhirter, who will lead the team, said that they planned to sink pipes into which refrigerant chemicals would be pumped. The aim is to freeze water in the rock surrounding the shaft and its nuclear waste to minimise



A hydrogen gas explosion caused the dumping of nuclear waste down the shaft to be halted in the late 1970s

South Pacific rivals LA for air pollution

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

SMOG has invaded paradise. Remote islands in the South Pacific show levels of ozone that would trigger an alert in Los Angeles, the American Chemical Society was told yesterday.

Sherwood Rowland, of the University of California at Irvine, who won the 1995 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his studies of atmospheric ozone, said that islands as remote as Fiji and Easter Island now had periods of ozone pollution.

The Galapagos archipelago and Ascension Island, in the South Atlantic, also experience ozone pollution, he said. The main cause is the burning of trees and scrub on distant continents, indicating that the smog created by the burning is long-lasting and can travel great distances.

Ozone is usually a result of vehicle exhausts in cities. In large amounts, it can increase the risk of asthma attacks and stunt the growth of trees, shrubs and crops.

In congested cities or the apparently pristine environment of the South Seas, the chemistry involved is the same. Professor Rowland said, "You need hydrocarbons, nitrogen oxides and sunlight. In the tropics, burning forests give off hydrocarbons, high temperatures create nitrogen oxides, and there is plenty of sunlight."

The data reported by Professor Rowland and his colleague, Dr Donald Blake, come from a range of

studies, some not yet published. Some of the most striking come from aircraft experiments by Nasa.

In 1996, for example, two research aircraft in the South Pacific encountered ozone from forest and scrub burning on 50 per cent of their flights. One flew through a plume of smog 500 miles north of Fiji in which ozone readings reached 131 parts per billion.

The pollution had travelled over Australia, with the biggest sources of ozone probably coming from as far away as Africa. In general, however, harmful ozone levels remain higher in the northern hemisphere than in the south, he said.

Professor Rowland shared the Nobel Prize with Professor Mario Molina, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, for their work in the 1970s showing the destructive effects of chlorofluorocarbons, or CFCs, on stratospheric ozone, which forms a protective shield against biologically harmful ultraviolet sunlight.

He now considers lower-level ozone a greater hazard because it is much harder to deal with. Stratospheric ozone levels are expected to recover during the next century as a result of phasing out the CFCs responsible. He has said that it will be more difficult to change the habits of vehicle ownership and the forest and crop burning that lie behind low-level ozone increases.



A satellite image of South America. Areas that look like clouds are where burning has occurred

This year April Fool's Day is on April 6th.

April 1st? You're joking. April 6th is the day all those unfortunate people who meant to take out a Virgin Growth PEP realise they've missed this tax year's deadline. Don't be one of them. Quick, you need to call us today

Virgin direct
personal financial service

0845 200 900

Open seven days a week from 8am to 10pm

Virgin Direct Personal Financial Service Ltd is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority. The price of units and any income from them can go down as well as up and you may not get back all the money you invest. The tax benefit depends on personal circumstances. You can invest in a PEP right up until 5 April 1999 when they will attract the same tax benefits as the new Individual Savings Account. For your security all calls to Virgin Direct are recorded and randomly monitored.

Be sensible, have £20

The Alliance Current Account gives you £20 for joining

We'll probably never know exactly why anyone would choose to dress up as a giant bird and jump off a pier. People who open an Alliance Current Account are much easier to understand. For a start they get £20 when they open and fund their account. Then there are all the other benefits of a more sensible way of banking:

■ Free Banking* ■ 24 hour telephone banking ■ Low authorised overdraft rate with no monthly fees ■ Generous credit interest rates

The 1.7 million people who can already use our telephone banking service know how much sense it makes. And with the chance to use over 300 Alliance & Leicester branches and nearly 20,000 post offices, no-one gives you more places to bank. So, if you're still with a bank that's driving you mad, why not fly the next? Call us free to apply or find out more.

Sensible banking in a mad, mad world 0500 95 95 95

QUOTING REF 1318

*All applications must be aged 18 years and over and agree to pay a minimum deposit of £200 into their account. Applications and overdrafts are subject to status. Written guidelines are available on request. Credit interest is payable net of income tax. 2.5% gross p.a. paid on credit balances of £5,000 or over. Interest rates are variable. To qualify for the £20 offer, you must fund your account within 2 months of the account opening date. All information correct at time of going to press. For security and training purposes telephone calls between you and Alliance & Leicester or its subsidiaries may be recorded or monitored. Alliance & Leicester plc. Registered Office 40 Park Lane, London W1T 4EQ.



Strong leaders: Tory peers complain that Al Capone's style is being adopted by Tony Blair's ministers

Labour accused of mob tactics

BY JAMES LANDALE
POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Government was accused yesterday of behaving like gangsters in an attempt to prevent Tory peers opposing plans to reform the House of Lords.

Viscount Cranborne, Tory leader in the Lords, said that the tactics of Al Capone had no place at Westminster. He was referring to an unnamed minister who told a newspaper that if Tory hereditary peers refused to co-operate with Labour's plans to expel them from the Lords, none of them would be allowed to return as life peers.

The Government promised before the election that "it should be made possible for a limited number of those [hereditary]

peers who play an active part in the work of the Lords to become life peers". Without some active hereditary peers remaining in place over the short term, it was feared a newly reformed House of Lords would grind to a halt.

But yesterday *The Daily Telegraph* reported a minister as saying: "If the Tories seek to defend the hereditary principle, they will all end up losing their seats, including Lord Cranborne."

Lord Cranborne said: "Mr Blair wants an emasculated House of Lords and is prepared to use crude threats to achieve that. The idea that the House of Lords is going to surrender to these sort of Al Capone-like tactics is a positive outrage."

The Government denied having issued any threat. Lord Richard, the Leader of the Lords, said: "There have been no substantive discussions with Opposition members of the House of Lords on the future of hereditary peers and we don't know where this story has come from."

Lord Cranborne, who is holding occasional talks with Lord Richard, said the Tories were prepared to co-operate with the Government to find common ground. But he insisted that if hereditary peers were to go they should be replaced with some equally independent element to hold the Government to account. "I am certainly not prepared to die in the ditch for hereditary peers," he said, but the old House of Lords should leave behind a new House that worked.

Unite behind Hague, Patten will tell Tories

Andrew Pierce on a speech that will boost the party leader with lavish praise and a call for the loyal support denied to his predecessor

CHRIS PATTEN will break his silence on domestic Tory politics today by backing William Hague and demanding that there be no repeat of the disloyalty that destroyed John Major's leadership.

The former Cabinet minister and Governor of Hong Kong, regarded as the favourite of the Tory Left in any future leadership contest, will seek to dampen the speculation about his own ambitions in a speech at London's St Stephen's Club.

Mr Patten, who was a close ally of John Major, will make a plea for party unity, saying of Mr Hague: "He has made an excellent start and deserves the loyal and enduring support so fatally denied his predecessor."

The speech also contains a strong attack on Tony Blair, who he will claim has manifestly failed to create an "ism" in the way that Margaret Thatcher did in the 1980s.

But it is his support for Mr Hague, who is on the opposite wing of the party on Europe, which will attract most comment. At the end of last year Mr Patten joined Michael Heseltine, Kenneth Clarke and other Tory grandees in signing a letter that attacked Mr Hague's opposition to joining the European single currency for two parliaments.

The inclusion of Mr Patten, 53, increased speculation that he saw himself as a future challenger to the 37-year-old Mr Hague. However, senior Tories who had seen advance

copies of today's speech said it showed that he was not limbering up for a return to mainstream British politics. "It shows he is telling people across the party: unite behind William," one senior Tory said.

Michael Portillo, the lost leader of the Tory Right who was bundled out of Parliament at the election, has embarked on a similar strategy to Mr Patten with a series of carefully worded speeches in support of Mr Hague.

Mr Patten will address the Europe issue head on in his speech by conceding that it will cause division. "Europe will continue to stir controversy and debate inside the Conservative Party. That is scarcely surprising," he will say.

"The issues are immense and they matter greatly. Before long, we will see the stirrings of debate even within the new model Labour Party. What is crucial is that we should not let the debate fatally divide the Conservative Party."

While acknowledging that he and Mr Clarke could be on opposite sides to the Tory

election at any price. He will say: "The Conservatives must patiently bide and wait for the tide to turn as it surely will. When we deserve it, those who invented today's agenda will be charged with the task of carrying it out."

He will praise Mr Hague for having avoided the risk of veering to the right to try to regain popularity, and will implicitly warn him to resist any such temptation in the future. "He has led the party from a position in its traditional centre with skill and determination. He possesses formidable parliamentary ability and an engaging unflappability."

The reforms of the party turn it into one single entity, the establishment one member, one vote leadership contests, and a ethics and integrity committee to stamp out impropriety, the sensible first step in building the party, he will say.

Mr Patten, a former Tory chairman, will add: "Ever recent party chairman would confirm he has been right to concentrate first on reforming the party. But he has outlined in thought and measured speeches his commitment to support for the family and for local democracy."

Mr Patten, who is completing a book on the Far East as his experience as Governor of Hong Kong, has not decided whether to return to Westminster. He has been mentioned as a possible Tory candidate to be mayor of London.



Patten: undecided about his future

Why Blair should risk exposure in The Sun

RIDDELL
ON POLITICS

TONY BLAIR has problems over the strength of the pound and over his relations with Rupert Murdoch. The answer to both is the same — come out now unambiguously in support of British entry into a single currency within a specified period. It is, after all, what Mr Blair believes and what the Government has been signalling to other European Governments. Robin Cook has already pointed the way in his interview with *The Times* on Monday.

Much self-righteous nonsense has been written about the Blair/Murdoch relationship by critics with their own vested interests. All Prime Ministers keep close contact with business leaders: Margaret Thatcher had an open door to her favourite industrialists and sought to promote exports and investments by British companies. Media tycoons (they generally have that dynamic force) have always enjoyed good access in Downing Street. It is one of the chores endured by Prime Ministers. Lord McNally, sponsor of the successful amendment on "predatory" pricing, observed as James Callaghan's political adviser in the 1970s how intimate relations were between the Wilson Governments and the *Daily Mirror*, leading to the ennoblement of some of the paper's executives.

All this is really beside the point. No one should be surprised that Mr Murdoch and News International want the ear of Downing Street on the many regulatory issues affecting them. Other companies do as well. The interesting question is why the Blairites have been so keen to court Mr Murdoch.

However, the relationship rests on two misconceptions — over the power of the press and over European policy. The Blair camp understandably wanted to neutralise, and if possible win over, *The Sun* in last year's election campaign. But Mr Blair's media advisers exaggerate its influence. *The Sun*, and other tabloids, may reinforce views, but there is little evidence that they are decisive. The paper did not win the 1992 election for the Tories, nor did its support for Mr Blair a year ago make any real difference. *The Sun* and other papers followed a swing to Labour by their readers rather than produced one.

Mr Blair has paid a price. Before *The Sun's* pro-Blair leader last year, he wrote an article giving a patriot-

ic/Euro-sceptic impression, however careful he was not to make any commitments. In government, senior ministers have been deliberately ambiguous, sending both pro-European and sceptical messages, so as to allow *The Sun* to claim that the issue is still open. Mr Blair argues that the Government needs space to establish itself before risking a bitter, and possibly close, battle over EMU. He is also said to have hopes of in time persuading Mr Murdoch about the advantages of entry.

Some Blairites believe that if Mr Murdoch becomes more involved on the Continent, there is a greater chance of winning him over. Perhaps. But no one should underestimate the strong opposition to EMU in principle of the editorial writers of the main News International titles. It has been *The Sun's*

most consistent campaign. It would be much healthier, and more candid, if the pretence that the Government is undecided about a single currency was abandoned. If that meant criticism, and more from *The Sun*, so what? It will not be decisive in a referendum. There has to be a parting of the ways at some stage if Britain is to enter EMU in four years. More openness now would put the Blair/Murdoch relationship on a normal working basis without any of the current illusions about where the Prime Minister stands on Europe.

It might also help to puncture the current sterling bubble. As Gordon Brown told the Treasury Committee yesterday, there are no short-term measures the Treasury can, or should, take. But a declaration about the Government's long-term intentions on EMU could help to bring down the pound and ease some of the pressures on industry.

PETER RIDDELL

THE TIMES/DILLONS FORUM



MEET NICK HORNBY

Nick Hornby, the best-selling author of *Fever Pitch* and *High Fidelity*, will be talking about his new novel, *About a Boy*, at a Times/Dillons Forum. Hornby will read extracts from the book and answer readers' questions about his work.

Chaired by Lynne Truss, *Times* columnist and comic novelist, the forum will take place at 7.30pm on April 7 at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London, WC1. The admission price of £10 (concessions £7.50 for students, pensioners and the unemployed) includes £2 off copies of *About a Boy* (Gollancz, £15.99).

NICK HORNBY FORUM

Please book me tickets(s) at £10 and/or ticket(s) at £7.50 (concessions) for The Times/Dillons Nick Hornby Forum on Tuesday April 7 at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1.

NAME ADDRESS

DAY PHONE No POSTCODE

I enclose my cheque made payable to Dillons the Bookstore

Value £ Cheque number (Please write your name and address on the back of the cheque)

Or, please debit my Credit / Bank Debit / Dillons-Hatchards account card number

Expiry date / /

PRINT NAME SIGNATURE

Please post coupon and remittance to: The Times/Dillons Nick Hornby Forum, Dillons, 52 Gower Street, London WC1E 6BQ

Tel: 0171-467 1613. Fax: 0171-467 1690

* Please note that tickets will be posted until March 30 only. Tickets booked after this date will be held for collection on the night at the venue. Please call 0171-636 1577 to confirm your booking.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Ticket number Date sent

IF IF YOU WANT MORE PC POWER FOR YOUR POUND...

...you need to select your computer carefully. For a PC to offer real value, it needs to combine the latest technology and advanced features with the lowest price.

These new Advent PCs deliver exactly that. Both feature the advanced Pentium® II processor, massive memory and more than enough hard disk capacity to run the latest software. Compare the specification and multimedia features with other machines and discover how much more Advent offers for the price.

You can order Advent direct or try before you buy at any PC World.

Advent

266MHz Intel Pentium® II Processor

- 64Mb SDRAM • 512k Cache
- 8.6Gb UDMA HDD
- 24 x Panasonic CD-ROM
- Intel LX Motherboard
- 15" Digital Monitor • 50W Speakers
- 4Mb 3D AGP ATI Rage Pro Graphics
- 56Kbps Modem • MS Windows 95
- plus Lotus SmartSuite, Incoming 3D, Compton's Encyclopedia and more

FREE 12 MONTHS ON-SITE SERVICE

MODEL: 8350.

12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION

£1199 EX VAT

£1408.83 INC VAT

Advent

333MHz Intel Pentium® II Processor

- 64Mb SDRAM • 512k Cache
- 8.6Gb UDMA HDD
- 24 x Panasonic CD-ROM
- Intel LX Motherboard
- 15" Digital Monitor
- 50W Speakers
- 4Mb 3D AGP ATI Rage Pro Graphics • 56 Kbps Modem • MS Windows 95
- plus Lotus SmartSuite, Incoming 3D, Compton's Encyclopedia and more

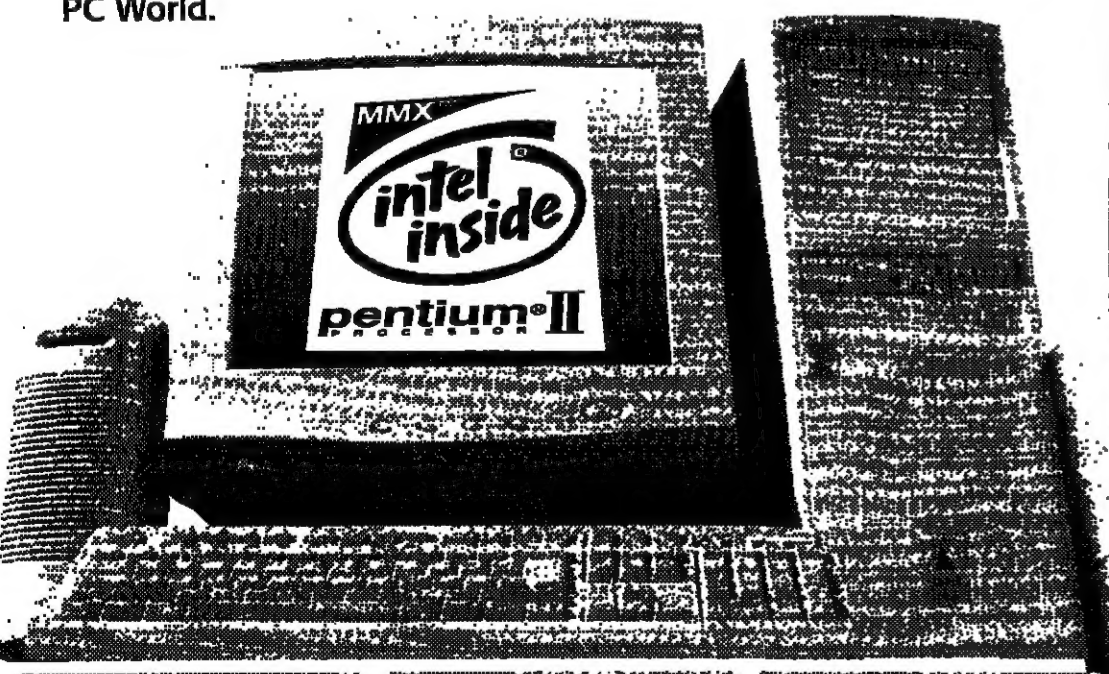
FREE 12 MONTHS ON-SITE SERVICE

MODEL: 8510.

12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION

£1299 EX VAT

£1526.33 INC VAT



FUTURE PROOF

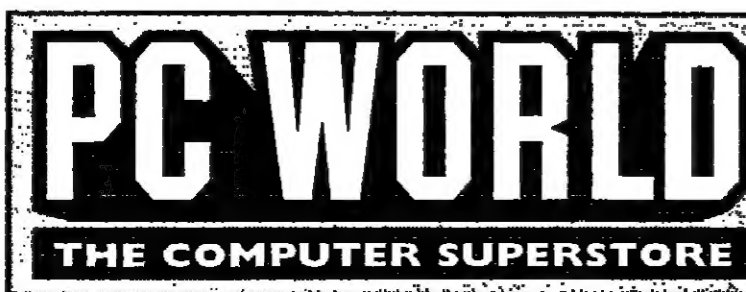
INTERNET READY

MILLENNIUM SAFE

TO ORDER DIRECT CALL FREEPHONE 0500 504030

OR VISIT YOUR NEAREST STORE

- | | | | | |
|--------------|-----------------|---------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| ■ ABERDEEN | ■ EAST KILBRIDE | ■ MANCHESTER | ■ PRESTON | ■ SPRUCEFIELD |
| ■ BIRMINGHAM | ■ EDINBURGH | ■ MERRY HILL-DUDLEY | ■ READING | ■ STOCKPORT |
| ■ BURNLEY | ■ GATESHEAD | ■ NORTH SHIELDS | ■ SHEFFIELD | ■ STONE |
| ■ CANTERBURY | ■ GLASGOW | ■ NORTHAMPTON | ■ SLOUGH | ■ SWANSEA |
| ■ CARDIFF | ■ HULL | ■ NOTTINGHAM | ■ SOUTHAMPTON | ■ SWINDON |
| ■ CHATHAM | ■ IPSWICH | ■ OLDHAM | ■ STAPLES CORNER | ■ THAMES VALLEY |
| ■ COLCHESTER | ■ LEEDS | ■ PETERBOROUGH | ■ TOTTENHAM | ■ WARRINGTON |
| ■ COVENTRY | ■ LIVERPOOL | ■ PORTSMOUTH | ■ WOLVERHAMPTON | ■ WYTHAM |
| ■ DERBY | ■ LONDON | ■ SOUTHAMPTON | ■ WYTHAM | ■ WYTHAM |
| ■ DONCASTER | ■ LIVERPOOL | ■ POOLE | | |



Telephone orders will require a 10% deposit. Prices exclude cost of delivery, delivery charges from £15 including VAT. Please note that delivery times are operational Monday-Friday 9am-5pm, Saturday 9am-5pm, Sunday 11am-5pm. Advent products cannot be directly ordered in the Republic of Ireland. UP TO 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION. Account is interest free if repaid in full before the 12th monthly payment. Options are as follows: 9 months for products £700-£1299 inc VAT, 12 months for products over £1300 inc VAT. Typical example: Cash price £1500 inc VAT, 10% deposit of £150, 11 monthly payments of £145.45. Balance of £147.50 to be paid before or with the 12th payment. (No interest). Total paid £1500 inc VAT. OR SPREAD THE COST WITH 48 MONTHS. Typical example: Cash price £1500 inc VAT, 10% deposit of £150, 47 monthly payments of £34.66. Total amount paid £1500 inc VAT. All loans subject to status. APR 29.5%.

No Deposit Credit Option available in-store. Without Credit guarantee are available on request from: Dept. M/P/C/E, Maylands Avenue, Hemel Hempstead HP2 7TE. The Intel Inside logo, Pentium and MMX are Registered Trademarks of the Intel Corporation. Part of the Intel Inside.

50 كذا من الأصا



Corporal Jones: turned up at memorial service

Veteran soldiered on 80 years after funeral

OSWALD JONES was laid to rest with full military honours yesterday — 80 years after turning up for his own funeral.

In 1917, he had been listed missing, presumed dead, after being shot during trench-fighting in France. Family and friends back home prayed that the 23-year-old corporal had survived. When the Great War finished with still no word, they had to accept that he was dead.

The Methodist church in the village of Cwmavon, near Port Talbot, was decked with flowers in readiness for a memorial service when Mr Jones arrived home, grinning and amazed. His funeral turned into a street party as the whole village celebrated his return.

Mr Jones explained that he had recovered after being shot by a German sniper and was "feeling fine". He proved the point by outliving all the mourners at his premature send-off and dying a great-grandfather at the age of 102. Yesterday, as more than

Oswald Jones outlived those who mourned his presumed wartime death, writes Simon de Bruxelles

200 people turned out to say goodbye, his son Ron, aged 72, told of his father's return from the dead.

Ron said: "The whole village was in mourning for my dad. His parents were informed by the authorities that he had been badly injured in a battle and had been taken prisoner."

"But they heard nothing more and when the war ended they resigned themselves to the fact that he had died."

Corporal Jones had been shot in the elbow and taken prisoner. After spending time in a German field hospital he was transferred to a prisoner of war camp on the Baltic Sea.

"He was quite shocked to think that everyone thought him dead," said his son. "He

had been recovering in a camp for over a year in Stettin in the far north of Germany. There was a delay in repatriating him and it was weeks after Armistice Day that he turned up after a long journey by ship and train."

Corporal Jones went on to marry a local girl, Gladys. When she died 22 years ago, after 53 years of marriage, Oswald went to live with Ron, the elder of his two sons.

Ron said: "He lived a happy, fulfilling life, working hard bringing up a family, and loved playing with his grandchildren."

"He knew he was one of the lucky ones to survive the horrors of the war and always attended Remembrance Day parades. He was very fit and active and loved pottering in the garden until a couple of

years ago when old age caught up with him."

Mr Jones had enlisted with the Royal Welch Fusiliers in Wrexham in 1915. After the First World War he worked as a railway clerk for 35 years in charge of work rosters at the Port Talbot sidings.

He spent the last five years of his working life in the costing department at British Steel's works at Port Talbot.

The funeral of Mr Jones, who died at home, was held at a Methodist church in Port Talbot. Men from the Royal Welch Fusiliers carried his coffin and formed a guard of honour for their longest-surviving veteran.

A bugler sounded the Last Post at the cremation. The Rev Gordon James, who conducted the service, said: "It was a bit strange to be officiating at the funeral of a man who was thought to be dead all those years ago."

"He was a fine old man who was well respected. The church was packed and he was given a magnificent send-off."



Mr Jones: his funeral was held yesterday

Galaxy may be smaller than we thought

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

THE galaxy is significantly smaller than most people believed, calculations by two astronomers from Southampton University suggest.

The solar system lies towards the edge of the galaxy and the distance from the Sun to the galactic centre is estimated to be 28,000 light years. The new calculations by Michael Merrifield and Rurt Olling indicate that this distance is closer to 23,000 light years.

By implication, the whole Milky Way must be 15 per cent smaller than was thought, they told the UK National Astronomy Meeting at St Andrews yesterday.

Other galaxies are often measured by reference to the size of the Milky Way. So if the galaxy's size has been exaggerated, so possibly has that of the universe.

The calculations also suggest that the motion of the star system through the Milky Way is slower than was believed. The Sun and its accompanying planets follow a roughly circular path around the galactic centre, at speed — the two astronomers estimate — of 185 kilometres a second. This is significantly slower than the previously-assumed figure of 200 kilometres a second. The meeting was also told

that Jupiter's Great Red Spot has begun to reveal some of its secrets.

The spot is believed to be a weather system three times bigger than Earth. Fred Taylor, of Oxford University, outlined some of the results of the Galileo satellite orbiting Jupiter.

Most astronomers believed the Great Red Spot was a solid mass of cloud, Professor Taylor said, but Galileo has shown it to have a spiral structure, with a tilting centre that rises at least ten kilometres above the rest, like a crooked spiral staircase.

Wet air from the deep atmosphere seems to be rising rapidly through a narrow region at the centre of the spot and spraying out over the top of the ammonia-laden clouds as it rotates.

The clouds are frozen ammonia, with particles 100 times smaller than those in water-ice clouds on Earth. Above the clouds lies a thick haze of hydrocarbon droplets, which varies in density.

While the Earth's weather is driven by the condensation and evaporation of water, on Jupiter there are three chemicals, phosphine, water vapour and ammonia, which can evaporate and condense, making for a much more complex climate.



Jupiter's Great Red Spot is giving up its secrets

Wind farms to get local ownership

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

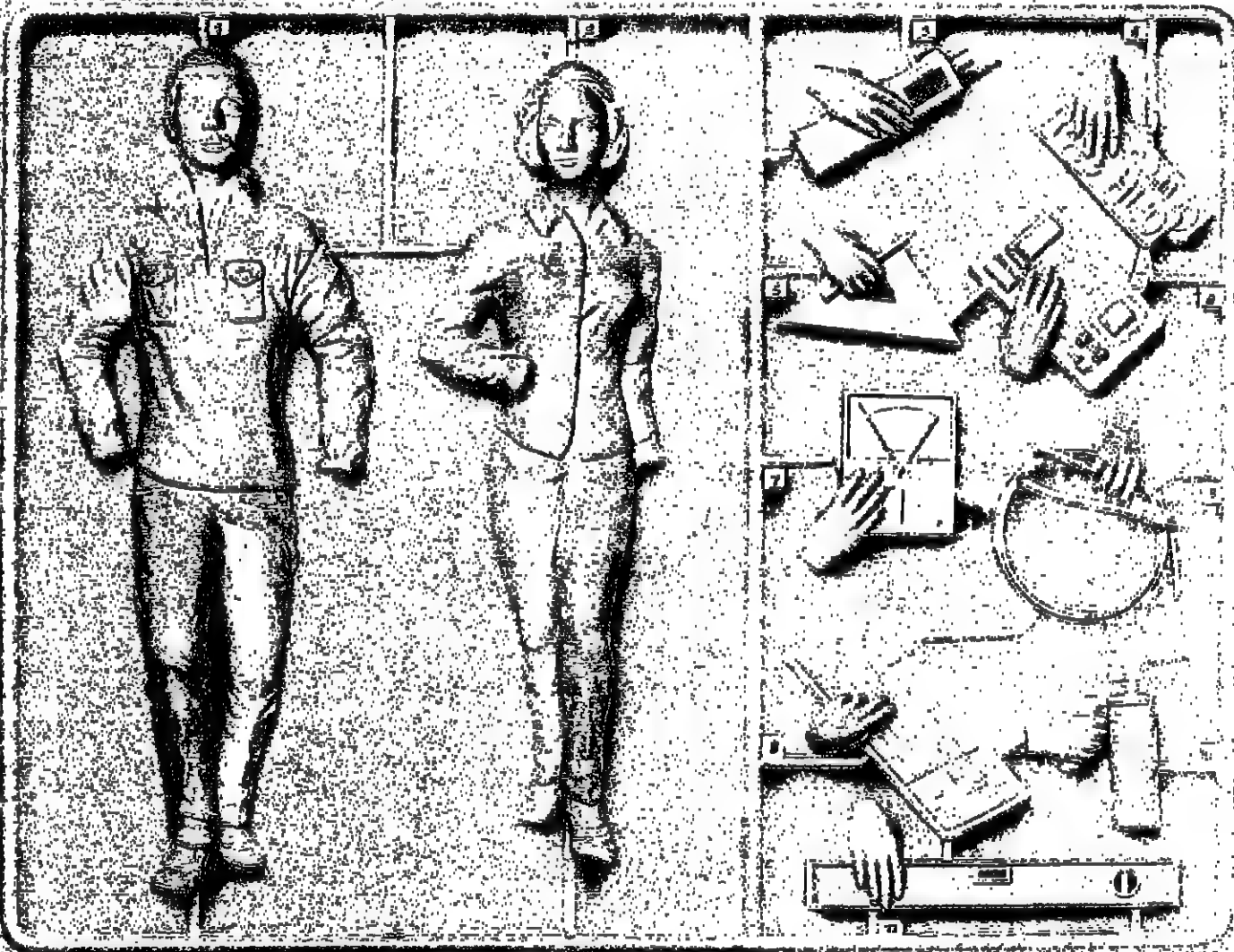
ATTRING of community-owned wind farms are being encouraged under government-backed plans to increase energy by 10 per cent by 2010.

The farms are to be based on pioneering Harlock Hichem near Ulverston in Cumbria, where two out of the five turbines are owned by shareholders, many of whom live locally.

Wind farms have, in recent years, been criticised by local campaigners as economically flawed and blots on the landscape. However, John

Battle, the Energy Minister, believes the key to those concerns is to give communities the chance to take shares in wind farms so that they feel the schemes are part of the area rather than imposed from outside.

Today he will introduce a debate in the House of Commons into plans by the European Commission to double renewable energy production in Europe to 12 per cent of demand. Mr Battle is expected to support Harlock Hill and to give backing to similar schemes across the country.



HOW TO MAKE YOUR OWN MODEL EMPLOYEE

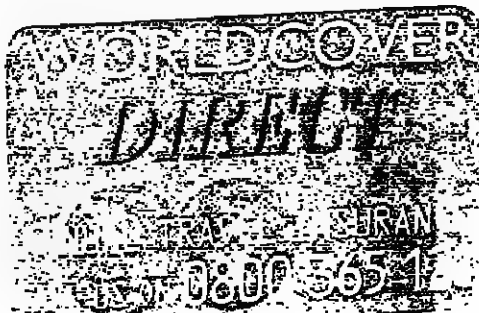
... JUST FOLLOW THESE SIMPLE STEPS.

- 1 You will need one vacancy or training place and one enthusiastic school leaver. Match the school leaver with vacancy, and check how they fit together.
- 2 Apply National Traineeships, devised by the business community to provide employers with the skilled people they need.
- 3 Find out about support available from Training and Enterprise Councils, and enlist their help to design desired programme.
- 4 Help your trainee develop vital workplace skills such as IT, numeracy and communication, up to NVQ level 2.

Following these instructions, the employer and the school leaver will have helped give a school leaver a good start in the workplace. For a further guide, send your own model employee. Phone 0345 66 55 88 for more information.



NATIONAL TRAINEESHIPS
THE MAKING OF A SCHOOL LEAVER



Chinese leader visits the Queen at Windsor

By MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

ZHU RONGJI, the Chinese Prime Minister, arrived in Britain yesterday for a double summit in London and went to Windsor to see the Queen.

The newly appointed premier, making his first visit overseas since his appointment last month, was briefly received by the Queen in the Green Drawing Room, one of the areas of the castle restored after the fire.

It is the first time the Queen has met a Chinese prime minister since her state visit in 1986. As a memento of her meeting, she gave him a silver framed photograph of herself and Prince Philip.

Today, Mr Zhu has talks with Baroness Thatcher and Sir Edward Heath before a round of talks with the Bank of England and City experts on privatisation and the financial reforms he is eager to introduce.

Tomorrow Mr Zhu has two summits in Downing Street. The first is a meeting with Tony Blair that will build on Britain's rapidly improving relations with China and the prospects for expanded trade. The second, immediately afterwards, is the first summit between China and the European Union, where Mr Blair will be joined by Jacques Santer, President of the European Commission, and Sir Leon Brittan, the EU Commissioner responsible for relations with China. Burgeoning trade relations and human rights will top both agendas.

Election win threatens stability in Caucasus

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

ROBERT KOCHARYAN, Armenia's young, dynamic but hardline nationalist Prime Minister, yesterday won a landslide victory in presidential elections, threatening to plunge the volatile Caucasus region into a new period of uncertainty.

Electoral officials said that with most of the ballots counted from Monday's run-off contest, the former leader of the breakaway enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh had established an unassailable lead. Mr Kocharyan received more than 60 per cent of the vote, well ahead of his challenger, Karen Demirchyan, the former Soviet communist boss, who trailed at just under 40 per cent.

The triumph was nothing short of spectacular for Mr Kocharyan, 43, a former engineer who was appointed Prime Minister only a year ago by the former President, Levon Ter-Petrossian, who resigned last month.

Since then he has established himself as a competent administrator and eager reformer. The qualities are badly needed to prop up Armenia's economy, which suffers not only from post-Soviet turmoil but also the impact of the decade-long economic blockade imposed by the country's neighbours, Azerbaijan and Turkey.

Mr Kocharyan, who built up Armenian forces in their victorious attempt to break Nagorno-Karabakh away from Azerbaijan, was instrumental in forcing Mr Ter-Petrossian from office, after he displayed too much flexibility in

regional peace negotiations. A peace plan brokered by the Organisation of Security and Co-operation in Europe had proposed granting Nagorno-Karabakh independent status within Azerbaijan. In return, Armenian forces would withdraw from captured Azerbaijani lands and allow the return of hundreds of thousands of refugees.

Mr Ter-Petrossian, a former dissident in Soviet times, misjudged the public mood of opposing any concessions to Baku and was forced to resign. Although the new President-elect's tough views are more in keeping with the general opinion in Armenia, outside observers warn that the country could pay heavily for its endorsement of such a nationalist leader.

Billions of pounds from the West are being invested in Azerbaijan to exploit the Caspian Sea's huge untapped oil wealth and other states in the region, such as Georgia and Turkey, are likely to benefit from the economic boom.

Baku, which only a few years ago was a poor backwater, has been transformed into a bustling oil centre, while Yerevan has changed little since the Soviet Union broke apart seven years ago.

Internationally Armenia has been forced to choose strange partners to survive. It relies on Iran for trade, on Russia for arms and security ties and on America, where the powerful Armenian expatriate lobby ensures a steady flow of aid.



Robert Kocharyan acknowledges supporters in Yerevan after voting in Armenia's presidential poll

Maoris win £56m apology for treaty betrayal

Wellington: Doug Graham, New Zealand's Justice Minister, got close to tears in Parliament yesterday as he introduced a Bill to settle a century of injustices inflicted on the country's South Island Maori.

The 546-page Ngai Tahu Claims Settlement Bill records the Crown's apology to the Ngai Tahu people for breaches of the 1840 Treaty of Waitangi and formalises the settlement, signed in October last year, giving the tribe £56.6 million compensation. The settlement honours the 1840 Treaty of Waitangi, under which New Zealand became part of the British Empire, and which promised the Maori people would keep their land and resources, including forests and fisheries.

In subsequent wars, however, the Maori people, including the Ngai Tahu, were brutally dispossessed and although around 13 per cent of the population, are marginalised.

Mr Graham detailed some of the injustices to the Ngai Tahu: the Crown set out on a campaign to acquire as much land as possible, breached promises to set aside adequate reserves for Ngai Tahu to preserve mahinga kai or food gathering rights—enjoyed for centuries, and, in the result, lost inadvertently ensured that Ngai Tahu would indeed become marginalised.

Adelaide: More than 37,000 miles of desolate outback used by Britain for atomic testing in the 1950s and 1960s was handed back to its traditional Aboriginal owners yesterday after a £39.3 million clean-up of the southwestern Australian site. The clean-up came after an official inquiry into the British testing at Maralinga, where contamination forced the indigenous Maralinga Tjarutja people to leave their land. (Reuters)

World Beater



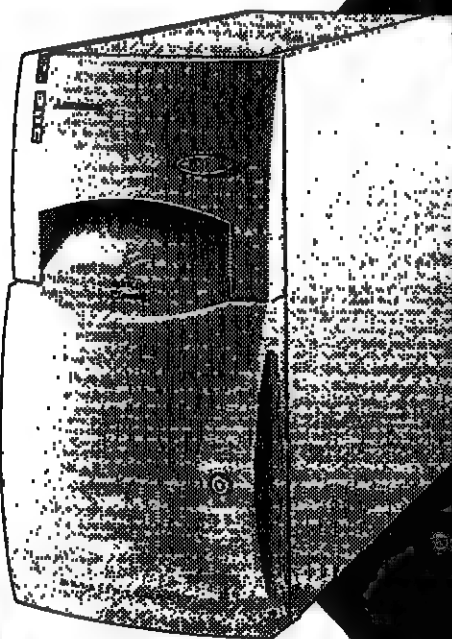
The Apricot FT1200 server – the best throughput in its class, in the world. BEAT THAT.

Promotional Price
£1,599 + VAT
(£1,879 incl. VAT)

Mitsubishi Electric's award winning Apricot FT1200 is on top of the world. It's just won the AIM Hot Iron Award as the best performance server in its class in the world.

No wonder, even at its entry level it boasts a world beating specification that packs power and performance into a well engineered package. A world beater through and through it represents outstanding value at £1,599 + VAT.

So hurry, the Apricot FT1200 will make a world of difference to your business.



- ▶ 660MHz Pentium III processor with 64Kb processor support
- ▶ 512KB L2 cache
- ▶ 32MB ECC SDRAM (expandable to 512MB)
- ▶ 4GB Ultra Wide SCSI hard disk (up to 36GB internal storage up to 93GB using external drive cabinet)
- ▶ 100MB CD-ROM drive
- ▶ Dual Integrated Ultra Wide SCSI controller
- ▶ Integrated 10/100 Ethernet adapter
- ▶ RAID and Smart UPS options
- ▶ 3 years' on-site warranty



Call now on 0800 212 422

Competitive leasing option available Check out our website for more information www.mitsubishi-computers.com/uk (Irish Republic 1800-333 600)

For more information about the world beating Apricot FT1200 server, call 0800 212 244 or return the coupon to: Mitsubishi Electric PC Division, FREEPOST (BM402), Birmingham B37 5BR.
Or contact www.mitsubishi-computers.com/uk

Name _____ Job title _____
Tel.no. _____ E-mail _____
Company name _____
Address _____
Postcode _____

MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC

COMPUTERS FOR A CONNECTED WORLD

Offer valid while stocks last, at participating Mitsubishi dealers only. All trademarks acknowledged. The Intel Inside Logo and Pentium are registered trademarks and MMX is a trademark of Intel Corporation. Prices and specifications correct at time of going to press. E&OE. All prices quoted in Sterling. Specifications are liable to change. All prices quoted are exclusive of VAT (unless otherwise stated). Mitsubishi Electric PC Division is a trading division of Dentsu Commercials Credit Ltd.

Britain 'is hindering' Swiss over cash crime

FROM PETER CAPELLA
IN GENEVA

ONE OF Switzerland's senior magistrates has attacked Britain's record of providing legal assistance in international criminal cases, including its failure to reveal information on suspicious bank accounts.

The criticism came as the Swiss introduced a law that will tighten controls on money laundering and undermine Switzerland's legendary banking secrecy.

Bernard Bertossa, the public prosecutor for the canton of Geneva, told *The Times* he had been waiting for several years for information on accounts used in Britain for economic crime. Some are understood to be suspected of being part of a money laundering chain. The delays allow assets to be moved and give time for the origins of the money to be hidden.

Mr Bertossa, who is an outspoken critic of Swiss banking secrecy, said one of the cases involved a 100 million Swiss franc (£43 million) fraud, and no information had been provided for two years. He said the British authorities had never clearly explained the delay.

"Britain doesn't have the formal obstacles that we do in our law, but in practical terms, its co-operation in mutual legal assistance is far worse than Switzerland's."

Geneva authorities are still waiting for a response to an extradition request against two Britons lodged three years ago. They are being sought in connection with the kidnapping of the nine-year-old son of a Syrian businessman here in 1987.

The new money laundering law, which comes into force today, obliges Swiss banks to report on suspicious transactions and deposits. For the first time, it also imposes stricter controls on lawyers and a network of financial middlemen who are commonly used by traffickers, mafia bosses, and corrupt politicians to hide and launder money in Switzerland.

Papon verdict likely soon after six-month trial

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE longest trial in French history approaches its climax today as a Bordeaux jury prepares to deliver its verdict on Maurice Papon, the elderly French bureaucrat accused of committing crimes against humanity by sending hundreds of Jews to their deaths in the Second World War.

A verdict in the case is expected tonight or early tomorrow, but after six months of testimony, numerous delays and a mountain of evidence, few would dare to predict the outcome.

Prosecutors have argued that M. Papon, 87, was a crucial and willing participant in the Nazi genocide, an "exceptionally intelligent, efficient and methodical" collaborator who, as secretary-general of the Vichy regime, knowingly sent more than 1,500 Jewish men, women and children to their deaths in German concentration camps. M. Papon has argued that he was no more than a small cog in a machine he did not build and could not control. He denied he knew the fate of the Jewish deportees and claimed that he had done his best to alleviate their plight. Much of the trial has been taken up with exploring his claims to have been an active agent in the Resistance.

The historical significance and complexity of the Papon trial lie in the fact that the accused was not a Fascist, an anti-Semite or a mass murderer, but a pen-pusher whose principal ideology was one: service to the state. M. Papon's lawyers have also sought to portray him as a powerless victim of Nazi domination.

"The Germans demanded total obedience from French bureaucrats. Do you have any idea what it's like to have Nazi flags and Nazi soldiers everywhere?" Marc Versat, M. Papon's lawyer, said in his summing-up this week.

The charges of complicity in crimes against humanity carry a life sentence, but the moral conundrum of M. Papon's situation was obliquely acknowledged by state prosecutors last week when they asked for a reduced sentence of 20 years.

Some lawyers representing civil plaintiffs have asked for even lower sentences, none of which will ever be imposed since M. Papon will certainly appeal against any conviction. Having been allowed his liberty during the trial on grounds of ill-health, he cannot be imprisoned on appeal process that could take many years and that the ailing Papon is unlikely to survive.

Montpellier: In protest against political alliances of the xenophobic Far Right, council is to name a street in Vichy, after the Second World War collaborator Government. The street is past the regional assembly, led by Jacques Blanc, a centrist politician supported the National Front. (AFP)

Maurice Papon arrives at the Bordeaux courthouse

Some lawyers representing civil plaintiffs have asked for even lower sentences, none of which will ever be imposed since M. Papon will certainly appeal against any conviction. Having been allowed his liberty during the trial on grounds of ill-health, he cannot be imprisoned on appeal process that could take many years and that the ailing Papon is unlikely to survive.

Montpellier: In protest against political alliances of the xenophobic Far Right, council is to name a street in Vichy, after the Second World War collaborator Government. The street is past the regional assembly, led by Jacques Blanc, a centrist politician supported the National Front. (AFP)



Maurice Papon arrives at the Bordeaux courthouse

Number is up for lottery mon

Bangkok: A Buddhist monk in Thailand faces being dismissed "if he even hints" to colleagues what the winning numbers of the next national lottery will be (Andrew Drummond writes).

Luang Phor Niwet, who has successfully predicted the winning numbers 15 times, would be banished from his vocation

and temple if he did not desist from his forecasting, the Religious Affairs Department said yesterday.

The monk has spawned a cottage industry of lottery handbooks highlighting his predictions, and every week thousands flock to his temple to see if he will favour them with a tip. He says he has

stopped making public predictions. But sometimes errant punters jump to their conclusions when they see how the wax falls from candles, forming numbermen he is conducting rous ceremonies.

Punters taking part in the lottery all over the world have written seeking his help

مكتبة الأمل

Rapists face death as Bangladesh backs female cause

BY CHRISTOPHER THOMAS, SOUTH ASIA CORRESPONDENT

THE Bangladesh Cabinet has approved the death penalty for rape. It is the toughest response of any of the seven countries of South Asia — most of them prejudiced against female rights — to spiralling crimes against women.

The maximum penalty for trafficking in, raping or murdering women in Bangladesh is currently ten years in jail, but parliament is expected to impose the death penalty within a few days. Police said three women were raped in Dhaka, the capital, during the short time the Cabinet discussed the new law.

The move will further highlight the hopeless position of women in Pakistan, where Muslim clerics have succeeded in making it all but impossible to prosecute a rapist. That explains an explosion in sexual crimes, almost none of which leads to prosecution — except of women, for engaging

in "unlawful" sex. Sharia (Islamic law) in Pakistan requires a woman to present three male, Muslim witnesses to prove there was penetration.

Abdul Matin Khasru, the Bangladesh Minister for Law, said that men involved in the abduction, trafficking or sexual abuse of women would automatically face the death penalty under the proposed law. "I have consulted a large number of experts before finalising the proposal and hope that parliament will pass it unanimously," he said.

Sheikh Hasina, the Prime Minister, has expressed her determination to curb criminal activities relating to the abuse of women and children. She is known to be appalled by the practice of smuggling emaciated Bangladeshi children to the Middle East to be used as jockeys in camel racing, and has succeeded in curbing the practice through

increased border surveillance.

Right-wing mullahs in Bangladesh hounded out Taslima Nasreen, a feminist writer, for her forthright comments on men and sex, but compared with their Pakistani counterparts they are positively moderate. There are, nevertheless, occasional reports of priests in rural areas instigating the public whipping of women for pre-marital sex.

Women in India fare better than most in the region: village culture is intolerant of sexual offences and the authorities are willing to deal firmly with rape suspects, although the practice of "bride burning" — setting a woman alight for producing inadequate dowry — still occurs.

Bangladesh, uniquely in South Asia, has advanced the status of women through micro-loans — £300 is the limit — for the purchase of a cow, a sewing machine or some other means of earning a living.



Virginia Teelow from the Reserve Bank of Australia holds up one of the new plastic \$100 notes which are designed to foil counterfeiters

America may fight forgers with a fistful of plastic

FROM LAN BROOKE IN WASHINGTON

AMERICANS may soon exchange their scruffy greenbacks for more durable, plastic notes that will be almost impossible to forge.

Australia has already issued plastic money, and the United States is deciding whether to follow suit. The

Bureau of Printing and Engraving in Washington is running tests on the plastic notes which allow the incorporation of several security features not possible on paper.

The issue was aired yesterday during a congressional hearing on the rapid growth of sophisticated counterfeiting. Michael Castle, the Republican chairman, said plastic notes

incorporating a small clear window embossed with a note's denomination would be an almost impossible challenge for counterfeiters using computers and ink-jet printers.

However, Howard Schloss, assistant secretary at the US Treasury, said the Treasury was already redesigning US currency, with new watermarks, a patented colour-shifting ink and a

polymer security thread, and officials were not sure they wanted to embark on another big step.

The new Australian currency is made from sheets of thin plastic called polymer substrate. The notes can be used for four times longer than paper notes which last only seven months in the smaller denominations, and work normally in cash machines.

Israelis 'will not be made suckers in peace process'

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

HOURS after sending Dennis Ross, the American peace envoy, back to Washington empty-handed, Binyamin Netanyahu visited a West Bank settlement yesterday and pledged that Israel would not be made "suckers" in the peace process.

Speaking in the town of Maale Adumim built on occupied land captured from Jordan in 1967, the Israeli Prime Minister claimed that it was now "part of greater Jerusalem" and told schoolchildren who had drawn maps depicting the West Bank as part of Israel proper: "We are not suckers. A situation in which we will give and not receive is not acceptable. Israel cannot give and give and not get anything back in return from the other side."

The Prime Minister, who flatly rejected US demands for the return of a further 13 per cent of West Bank territory in a move to revive the 12-month deadlock in the peace process, added: "We will not accept the equation of land in return for nothing, or land in return for terror."

The visit, seen as a direct snub to a repeated demand from both the US and the European Union for at least a temporary halt to settlement

expansion, came after an Israel Radio report that tenders for the building of the first 1,000 housing units in the new settlement of Har Homa will be sent out "in a few days or weeks".

Liberal Israeli critics of Britain had warned that the spotlight turned on Har Homa in annexed east Jerusalem by Robin Cook's chaotic trip there last month would only increase right-wing pressure on Mr Netanyahu, also the acting Housing Minister, to start issuing the vital tenders that had been quietly frozen for months.

Yesterday Mr Netanyahu attempted to brush off American criticism that he had sent Mr Ross home empty-handed and put Israel on a diplomatic collision course with the US.

Israeli commentators disagreed. Columnist Hemi Shelev wrote in *Maariv*: "The almost universal conclusion is that the peace process has reached a dead end, and that the mediation effort undertaken by Dennis Ross has failed."

The State Department dismissed suggestions that if the peace process were to break down altogether, the US would assign blame.

Leading article, page 19

Tell your boss he's fired.

Run off with his attractive wife. Set sail into the sunset.

Never do a day's work in your life again. We can all

dream! The reality is that improving your working

life doesn't happen suddenly. Rarely does it happen

dramatically. Like most things, you can only begin to

make a difference one step at a time. We believe that

quite literally. By choosing the shoes you wear for

work carefully, your life can change.



THE MAJORITY OF YOUR DAY COULD BE BETTER.

Surprisingly, we can often take an easily-pleased

attitude when considering work-wear. 'Well, they're

only for the office, we rationalise.

So it's not worth the bother

(or the expected expense) of

making an informed choice.

Consider the difference

when we look at sports shoes.

There, technical innovation and advanced design are

Incorporated as standard. It is accepted wisdom

that these shoes make a difference to our perform-

ance. Would it not make sense to demand the same

sophistication, the same improvement in performance,

from shoes we spend our working lives wearing?

A REAL, TANGIBLE DIFFERENCE. Think how many

miles you must walk between colleagues, jobs, fax

machines, meetings and the rest. Then consider the

benefits of the CDX 'Shock Absorption Systems'

which cushion both your heel and ball of foot areas.

As well as an underfoot carbon layer

which absorbs moisture and heat,

keeping your feet cooler.

Add to this other CDX features such as full calf leather

linings and socks for a breathable environment. Plus,

the CDX 'anti-slip, hard-wearing, K-tread 700 section'

within a high quality leather sole — a design which

provides extra grip and durability.

We believe the CDX range can make a positive

improvement to your working life. You will be surprised

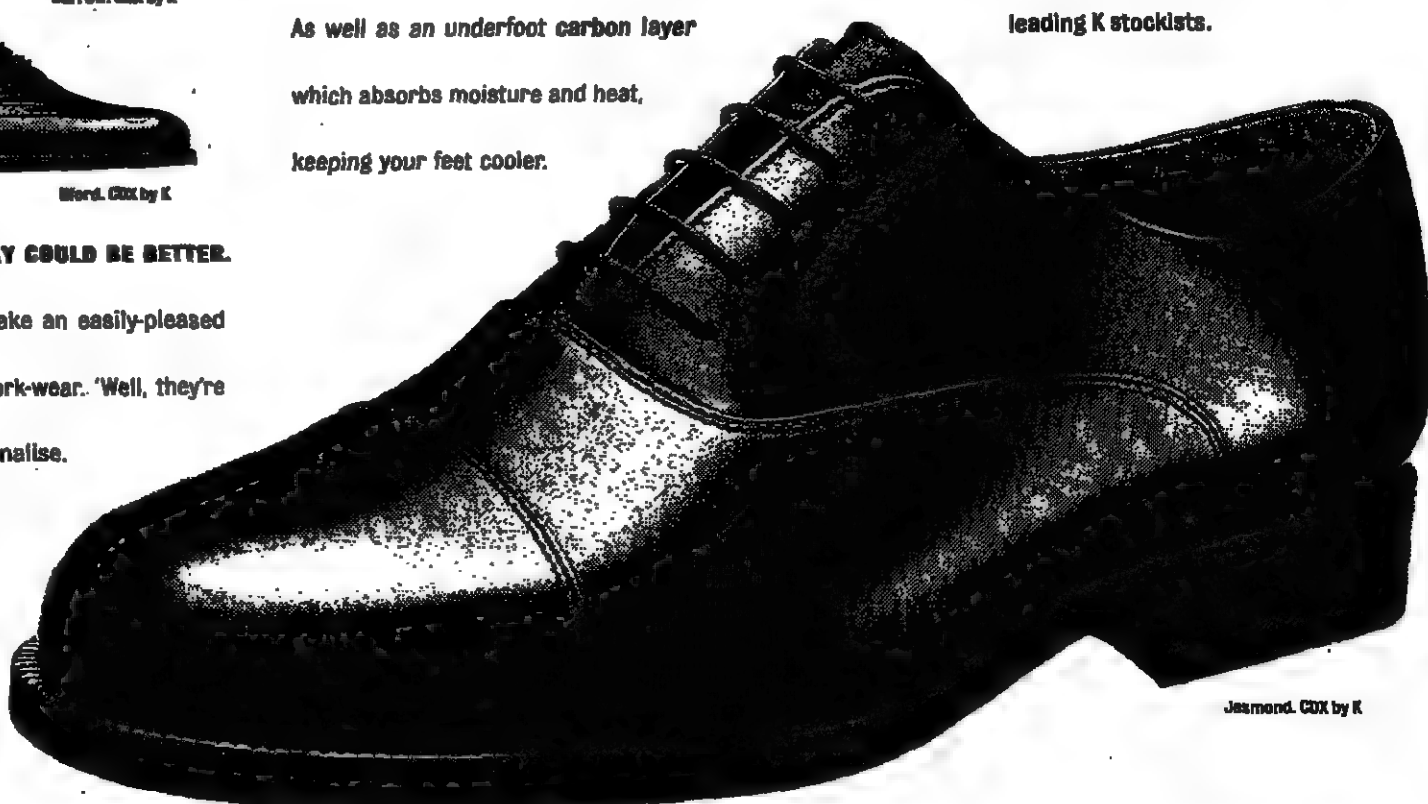
at what little investment it takes —

Why not tell your boss? Buying a pair could be the

best idea he's ever had! Check out the range today

at selected K Shoe Shops, Clarks Shops and other

leading K stockists.



Jasmond, CDX by K

FOR £1 OFF THE BIG DAY OUT IT'S IDEAL

- Showhouse Village
- Park and Gardens feature
- Concept Living in association with London Electricity featuring the Oyster House
- Stunning roomsets
- Over 650 exhibitors
- Cadbury's World of Chocolate
- Hundreds of thousands of prizes to be won!

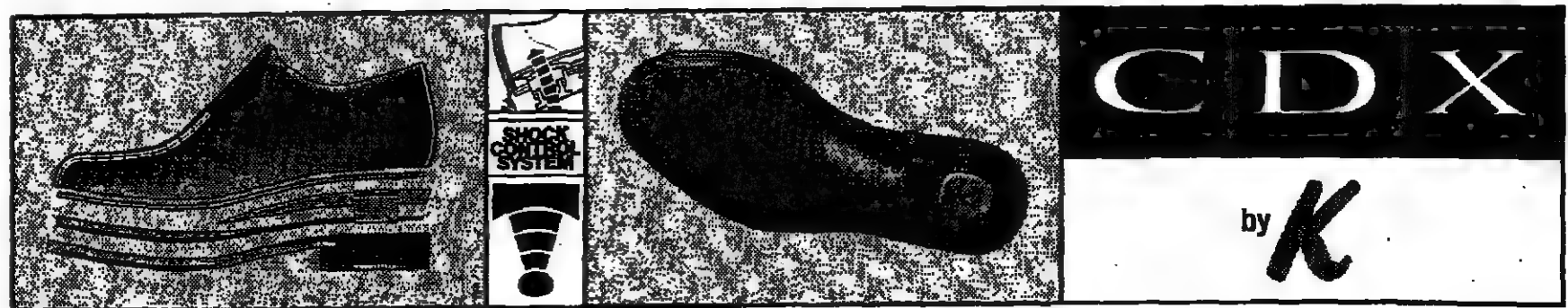


EARLS COURT, LONDON.
19 MARCH-13 APRIL 10AM-8PM.
LATE NIGHT THURSDAYS 10AM-10PM.
TICKET BOOKING AND INFORMATION
HOTLINE 0990 90 00 90.

SAVE £1 ON AN ADULT ENTRY
Simply present this coupon at the Box Office and you'll receive £1 off an adult ticket, before 5pm.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____

Not valid with any other discounts or offers. Valid for up to two people. Photocopies not accepted.



CDX shoes by K incorporate a wide range of individual specifications. For details of your nearest stockist please call 0990 905335. Sizes 6-12 (except 11 1/2).



President Clinton at Mokolodi Nature Reserve near Gaborone in Botswana yesterday

Clinton backs away from agreement on global warming

MARVELLING at his first experience of the African bush, Bill Clinton emerged from his two-day safari in Botswana offering little tangible encouragement to environmentalists in spite of his gushing admiration for African nature.

Speaking after talks with environmentalists close to Chobe National Park, itself part of the endangered ecosystem of the Okavango delta, Mr Clinton pledged support for an international treaty to monitor and combat desertification in Africa, but backed away from endorsing wider environmental treaties aimed at reducing global warming.

The Okavango swamps, where the Cubango River empties into the Kalahari desert, could be among the beneficiaries of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification that Mr Clinton said he would try to push through the US Senate. But he stopped short of commenting on the Namibian Government's plans to tap the river's waters, which environmentalists say will cause the Okavango delta to dry up.

"Any human being who spends any appreciable amount of time in a uniquely pristine place full of the wonders of animal and plant life instinctively feels humanity's sacred obligation to preserve our environment," Mr Clinton said.

Environmentalists will also be disappointed that he did not offer any new commitments to reducing so-called "greenhouse" gases which have contributed to global warming or to other aspects of international environmental legislation which the United

President marvels at African landscape but offers little protection, writes Sam Kiley

States has been reluctant to endorse. After spending five hours touring the Chobe park and a sunset trip on the Chobe River, where hippopotamuses, crocodiles and elephants basked in a pink twilight, Mr Clinton said that his trip had ended in an "amazing day".

Perhaps referring to Kenneth Starr, the special investigator examining allegations against Mr Clinton of sexual harassment, he said after seeing a monitor lizard, a carnivorous reptile: "I thought of all the people I would like that lizard to monitor, but unfortunately I could not catch it and take it home."

Shortly before setting off for Sen-

gal, the last country on his 11-day tour. Mr Clinton said that he would ask the space agency Nasa to commit satellites and ground-based surveillance equipment to a project to monitor land-use changes in southern Africa. He said the project would improve seasonal drought predictions and measure the impact of land use on climate change.

Earlier yesterday, Mr Clinton declared his excursion through the Botswana bush "beyond my wildest dreams".

Aides said he was also interested in Botswana's approach to maintaining its natural resources. The Government places direct control over wildlife and land resources on local communities, and has declared more than 17 per cent of the land area as protected. An extra 20 per cent to 25 per cent is reserved for community management of natural resources.

Though the American visitors may have been impressed with the stated policies of the Botswana Government, the reality is that the administration has been bitterly criticised by human rights groups for forcing San (bushmen) from their ancestral home to make way for game parks.

The Botswana Government has also drawn fire for its "foot and mouth", a fence which stretches across the Kalahari intended to keep wildlife away from beef cattle. The success of the beef enterprise, in which many government figures have a share, has resulted in desertification because of over-grazing.



Sandy Gall, page 18

Mayor Barry dogged by new scandal

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

MARION BARRY, Washington's trouble-prone Mayor, has denied new suspicions of immoral behaviour, even as benefactors line up funds for him to become a professor instead of running for reelection.

The head of the Mayor's police bodyguards has complained that Mr Barry, 62, refused to let them enter some of the private residences where he frequently paid lengthy visits. On one occasion when officers tried to check on his safety, Mr Barry came to the door "partially clothed". On another, they were told he was asleep.

The allegations were in a memo by Ricky Mitchell, who heads the Mayor's 15-strong security detail. Lieutenant Mitchell said he had no hard evidence or proof but "the appearance of unethical or immoral conduct by public officials is unacceptable".

Acting on the memo, a senior officer recommended that bodyguards should go to the door of premises entered by the Mayor to obtain the names and telephone number of occupants so they could then ring up Mr Barry every half an hour to ensure his safety.

A more stringent proposal came from Lauch Faircloth, a senator who oversees Washington's purse strings. He said if Mr Barry wanted to avoid his costly security force they should be withdrawn entirely.

During his 16 years in office, Mr Barry has been portrayed as a night owl who drops by at addresses throughout Washington. It was on one such occasion that he was caught smoking crack.

Mr Barry said the allegation that he came to a door partially clothed was "just ridiculous". There was "nothing immoral" or unethical about his visits to see political supporters.

The memo had surfaced because this was an election year and he was trying to decide whether to run for a fifth term as Mayor, Mr Barry said.

While voters chafed over the new controversy, a consortium of presidents from 12 universities in the Washington area was putting together a plan for Mr Barry to become a professor of urban politics at an annual salary of \$100,000 (£60,500) instead of running again. But he insisted: "They're not doing this to keep me from running."

Presidents 'killed by French missiles'

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS AND SAM KILEY IN JOHANNESBURG

MISSILES that brought down the aircraft carrying the Presidents of Rwanda and Burundi, triggering the 1994 Rwandan genocide, came from French arms seized from Iraq during the Gulf War, a French news report says.

Juvénal Habyarimana of Rwanda and Burundi's Cyprien Ntaryamira died when their jet was attacked as it approached Kigali airport on April 6, 1994. Citing two French army officers, *Le Figaro* said the missiles were both Soviet-made SAM16s. The newspaper also quoted Filip Reyngiers, an Africa expert, as saying the weapons "may have been sold to Iraq in 1988", and published "a note listing serial numbers, handwritten by a Rwandan Army officer".

The unidentified French officers are reportedly willing to testify to the French commission investigating whether France or French officials can be held to account for the four-month Rwandan carnage unleashed that April. More than 800,000 minority Tutsis and moderate Hutus died at the hands of Hutu extremists. One officer was

quoted as saying France had in effect "collected the missiles" during the Iraqi conflict. The second had "knowledge of a demand, made between November 1993 and February 1994, with a view to supplying the two ground-to-air missiles", the paper reported, adding the source said the order "seemed to come from someone close to former Captain Paul Barril".

Yesterday Edouard Balladur, Prime Minister of France from 1993 to 1995, denied Paris had supplied weapons to Rwanda after the bloodbath erupted.

Captain Barril, once with the late President Mitterrand's anti-terrorism cell within the Elysée Palace, said yesterday that the assassination was planned and carried out by the Tutsi-dominated Rwandan Patriotic Front.

Investigations by *The Times* and other British newspapers show Paris supplied weapons to the Hutu Government after the United Nations had been told of the plot to kill Mr Habyarimana and then unleash the Interahamwe — those who kill together — against the Tutsi minority.

'I had sex with Bill' says beauty queen

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

A FORMER Miss America yesterday reversed earlier denials and admitted that she had sex with Bill Clinton when he was Governor of Arkansas.

Elizabeth Ward Gracen, 37, whose testimony is being sought in the Paula Jones sexual harassment suit against the President, spoke for the first time about their liaison, claiming she wanted to rebut allegations that Mr Clinton forced himself on her.

She rejected accusations that Mr Clinton coerced her into silence about their one-night tryst, but said she had issued a formal denial during the 1992 presidential campaign on the advice of his aides.

"I had sex with Bill Clinton, but the important part to me is that I was never pressured," she told the *New York Daily News*. "We had an intimate evening. Nothing was ever forced. It was completely consensual."

While her statements contradicted sworn testimony by a friend that Mr Clinton sexually assaulted the beauty queen turned actress, they nonetheless continued to show a pattern of philandering and subsequent denial by Mr Clinton. He first denied an affair with Jennifer Flowers but, in evidence in the Jones case, admitted he had once slept with her.



Gracen: after she was crowned Miss America

Ms Gracen said their meeting took place in 1983, the year after her reign as Miss America. Both were married and the two met socially and first flirted during a brief ride in Mr Clinton's limousine with at least five other people. A few days later, she said, they met for a passionate rendezvous at an apartment building.

In admitting the brief encounter, Ms Gracen said she

hoped to end continuing speculation that Mr Clinton had sexually assaulted her and then arranged jobs and other benefits to ensure her silence. Judy Stokes, a former friend, has given evidence in the Jones case that Ms Gracen tearfully told her she had been forced to have sex in the back of a limousine in 1982.

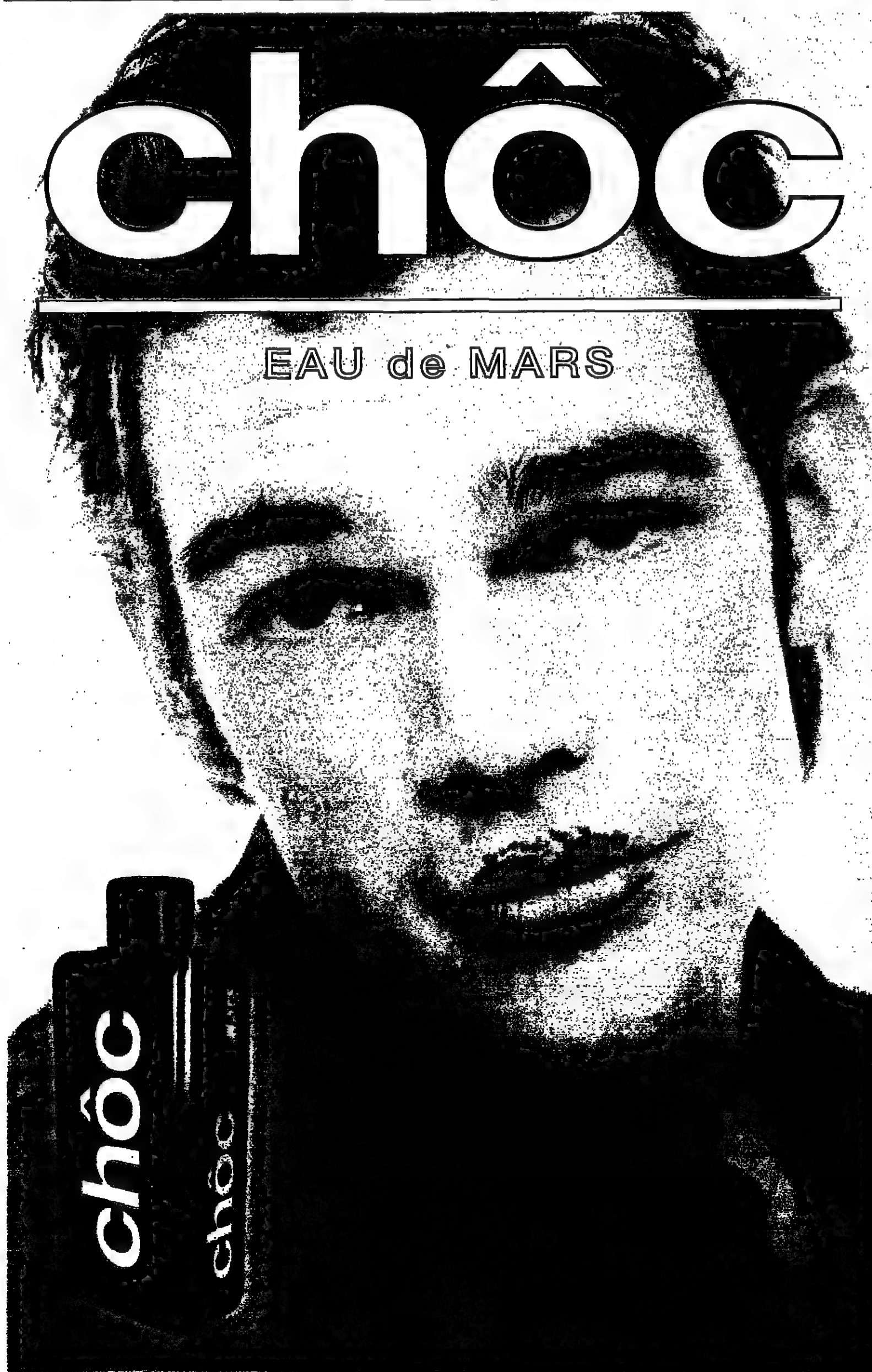
"That never happened. It's completely false. I never told her that Bill Clinton pressured me or harassed me. It's made me into a smoking gun and I'm not that," said Ms Gracen. "The lies gain credibility every day that I don't address them."

Lawyers for Ms Jones, the former Arkansas employee who alleges that Mr Clinton asked her to perform oral sex in the Excelsior Hotel in Little Rock in 1991, have subpoenaed Ms Gracen in the hope that she would allege in front of a jury next month that she was assaulted and then coerced into silence.

The actress has avoided all pre-trial testimony in the Jones case by remaining outside the United States for almost four months.

Claiming she had no wish to undermine the President, but clearly seeking to extricate herself from the mire of the Jones suit, Ms Gracen said she should never have been called as a witness. "It insults all women who have been sexually harassed," she said.

The White House declined to comment.



le,
es

price. He will
ratives must
id wait for the
it surely will
e it, those who
agenda will
the task o

Mr Hagu
ted the risk
right to try
ity, and wi
him to resi
tation in th
led the part
in its tradit
skill and de
le possess
arliamentar
engaging in

of the party
ie single leg
abishment
one vote f
rests, and
gity commit
propriety, a
rst step in
ry, he will s
a former To
l add: "Eve
nman wou
s been right
it on reform
he has at
t and me
his comm
for the fam
emocracy,"
who is compl
he Far East
as Governor
am in West
seen mention
any candidate
ordon.

risk
un

nt campaign
to healthier
and, if the
preference
ment is unde
single currency
ed. If that me
more from the
It will not be
a referendum
be a part of
some states
enter LNU.
More openin
put the B
relationship
ing basis with
the current
where the
ends on Europe
help to p
rent sterling
Brown's
y Committee
are no sh
yes the Irish
uld, take. B
about the G
Herm inter
uld help to
pound and
ay pressures

ER RIDDELL

DRUM



of Fever Pitch
about his new
Horns Forum
the book and
work.
columnist and
lance at 7.30pm
on, 20 Bedford
a price of £10
omers and the
of About a Boy

RUM

dictory at £7.50
on on Tuesday
15 May, London W1

E...

s the Bookst...

the House...

Adel...

For more
CIE SEO
1990

del, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100



Visitors to the Bagatelle Gardens in the Bois de Boulogne in Paris are framed by a see-through sculpture, *Ichthyscope*, by François-Xavier Lalanne. 150 works by Lalanne and his wife Claude will be on show until August 2

Europe's hopefuls given a taste of conflict

FROM CHARLES BREMMER
IN BRUSSELS

THE future members of the EU were given a glimpse yesterday of the Union's fierce resistance to reform when ministers unleashed a torrent of criticism on plans to revamp Europe's lavish farm spending.

The Brussels blueprint for heavy cuts in subsidies was given its first airing at a session of agriculture ministers, chaired by Jack Cunningham, the British Minister, as Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, was opening membership negotiations for Cyprus and five former communist states. Reform in the Common Agricultural Policy, which costs half the EU budget, is deemed by Britain, the European Commission and a handful of member states to be essential before the EU can expand.

Several EU states vowed to fight any cuts in the system, which fixes high prices for beef, cereals and milk. Commission officials played down the attacks from France, Germany, Ireland and the EU's southern states as routine posturing ahead of tough negotiations that is expected to last more than a year.

However, the impact was magnified by the decision to feed television coverage to the media and other visitors. Outside the building, Belgian riot police, with water cannon at the ready, set up barbed wire to hold back some 2,000 German and Italian farmers who were staging a protest.

Ireland set the tone with an implied veto. Joe Walsh, its Agriculture Minister, said: "My country has been seriously and disproportionately disadvantaged... and I wish to record Ireland's rejection with all the emphasis I can command."

For Germany, Jochen Borchert, said the reform would add £350 million a year to Bonn's EU farm bill. "The Titanic was a very beautiful ship but it still sank because it was on the wrong course. I wonder if the course is wrong here too," he said. Loyola Palacio, for Spain, said the reform violated the Treaty of Rome, the EU's founding charter, because it passed enlargement costs to farmers.

Italy joins Schengen frontier-free club

The move has exacerbated fears that Europe will be invaded by refugees and migrants, writes Richard Owen

BRUSHING aside accusations that it is unable to hold back a mounting "human tide" of refugees, asylum seekers and illegal immigrants, Italy was today admitted to full membership of the Schengen agreement on a border-free Europe.

The abolition of passport controls at land and sea frontiers to other Schengen member states means that travellers can enter European countries to which Italy has links by land or sea as if making a domestic journey. They can then make their way to any other Schengen member without hindrance.

Italy has land borders with Schengen members Austria and France, and ships run from Italian ports to France and Spain. Passports were abolished for air travellers to Schengen countries from Italian airports last October.

The move has aroused fears that Europe will be invaded by the refugees and immigrants who arrive almost daily on the Italian coast in small, high-powered craft run by criminal groups. Italian coastguards admit that their patrol boats

are outclassed by the faster smugglers' craft.

Because of its proximity to Albania, Turkey and North Africa, and its apparent inability to police effectively a 5,000-mile coastline — almost the distance from London to Beijing — Italy has faced opposition from other members of the Schengen club, which embraces France, Belgium, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Germany, Spain, Portugal and Austria (although not Britain and Ireland). Rome this week agreed to take back 56 Kosovan asylum seekers who had been "dumped" in Britain by Alitalia, on the orders of Italian police, even though under the Dublin Convention asylum seekers are supposed to be dealt with by the first EU country they arrive in — in this case, Italy.

Piero Fassino, the Deputy

Foreign Minister, said Italy must ensure that police and intelligence computer co-operation was sufficiently efficient to "prevent infiltration by criminals and illegal immigrants". Italy was "not a leaky sieve", he insisted.

The Schengen accords are due to be extended to Norway, Sweden, Finland, Iceland and Denmark, all of which share Dutch and German suspicions that Italy is the "soft underbelly of Europe".

There are a million legally registered immigrants in Italy, but estimates suggest there are nearly another million illegal immigrants. Many of the growing number of prostitutes in Italian cities are African or Albanian, and at almost every street junction there are Moroccans, Tamils or Kurds washing wind-screens for a living. Some turn to petty crime and drug deal-

ing. Many North Africans and Asians land on islands near Sicily, from where they can enter the Italian mainland.

Signor Fassino said Italy was negotiating with Turkey, Greece and Cyprus to stop illegal immigration, and said 16,000 Albanians who came to Italy last year had been repatriated. Giorgio Napolitano, the Interior Minister, said 54,000 clandestini had been sent back in 1996. But several thousand Albanians, Kurds and others have landed on Italy's southern coast since Christmas. The Foreign Ministry said Italian diplomats in Bangkok, Manila, Algiers, Cairo and Belgrade were being investigated for "irregularities in issuing visas".

Italian officials point out that under new legislation, immigrants found entering or living in Italy illegally will be "taken to the border post and expelled immediately". Under previous rules all immigrants were entitled to a 15-day stay, after which those whose requests for asylum were turned down were simply issued with "expulsion orders" but not physically deported.



Straw: a warning for bogus asylum seekers

EU police 'dumping' refugees on Britain

BY RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

JACK STRAW yesterday accused some police in the EU of using Britain as a dumping ground for bogus asylum seekers.

The Home Secretary said they sought to evade their responsibilities by sending unwanted immigrants on to British ports and airports.

Mr Straw, who did not identify the countries involved, said: "There are some frontier police in some European countries who are seeking to avoid their own problems by pushing them (asylum seekers) on to the United Kingdom."

He was speaking after Italy sent 56 Kosovans to Britain at the weekend. Also, 800 refugees have arrived from Belgium aboard the Eurostar.

Mr Straw said the UK would not be a soft touch for would-be asylum seekers. "I am taking as tough and effective action as is possible within the law and those who do turn up abusively seeking asylum will find themselves detained if there are good reasons for detaining them."

"So no asylum seeker should get the idea that if they do turn up in this country they will be dealt with leniently, because they won't be," Mr Straw said.

The 56 Kosovans are to return to Rome within the next 48 hours after the Italian Government agreed to take them back following the intervention of the Home Secretary.

The Kosovans arrived at Heathrow on an Alitalia flight on Saturday. Twenty-eight are being held in a detention centre and the rest were given temporary permission to enter Britain.

'Idiot box' is claiming 11 years of life

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

THE average American spends the equivalent of 11 years in front of a television set over a 72-year lifespan, according to a non-profit organisation that campaigns against the "idiot box".

The group, TV-Free America, has released the statistics in advance of "National TV Turnoff Week" this month. Begun by the group in 1995 — and emulated in Britain, Canada, Denmark and Australia — the week is designed to make couch potatoes aware of the "damage to the health of individuals, families and entire communities" caused by tele-addiction. Television is

TV-Free America is particularly alarmed by television's effect on children. Fifty-four per cent of American youngsters have sets in their bedrooms.

According to *White Dot*, an anti-TV pamphlet published monthly in Chicago, the average child has seen 8,000 TV murders by the time he or she finishes elementary school. By 18, they will have witnessed more than 200,000 violent acts on children.

A number of parents are insisting on "TV-free days", a move encouraged by schools. Amy Finnerty, a New York mother of two, said: "On those days, they have to read, or use their wits to entertain themselves." Unsurprisingly, there have been nearly 4,000 academic studies published in America on television's influence on

children. Earlier this month, researchers at the Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Centre found a direct correlation between juvenile obesity and the hours spent watching.

Children who watched four or more hours a day were significantly fatter than those watching fewer than two hours — having been robbed of exercise time and encouraged to consume high-calorie snacks and fizzy drinks.

Other studies have found that a steady diet of television has produced a generation of overstimulated, underactive children who have more trouble deferring gratification or developing a contemplative mind.

The average household has 2.5 sets, and nearly a third of all homes have three sets or more. A set is switched on for six hours and 47 minutes on average every day, and 66 per cent watch programmes while eating dinner.

Last year, Americans viewed for 250 billion hours: the value of that time, computed at an average wage of \$5 (£3) an hour, was \$1.25 trillion. Last year, six million videos were rented daily, matched by only three million books borrowed from libraries a day.

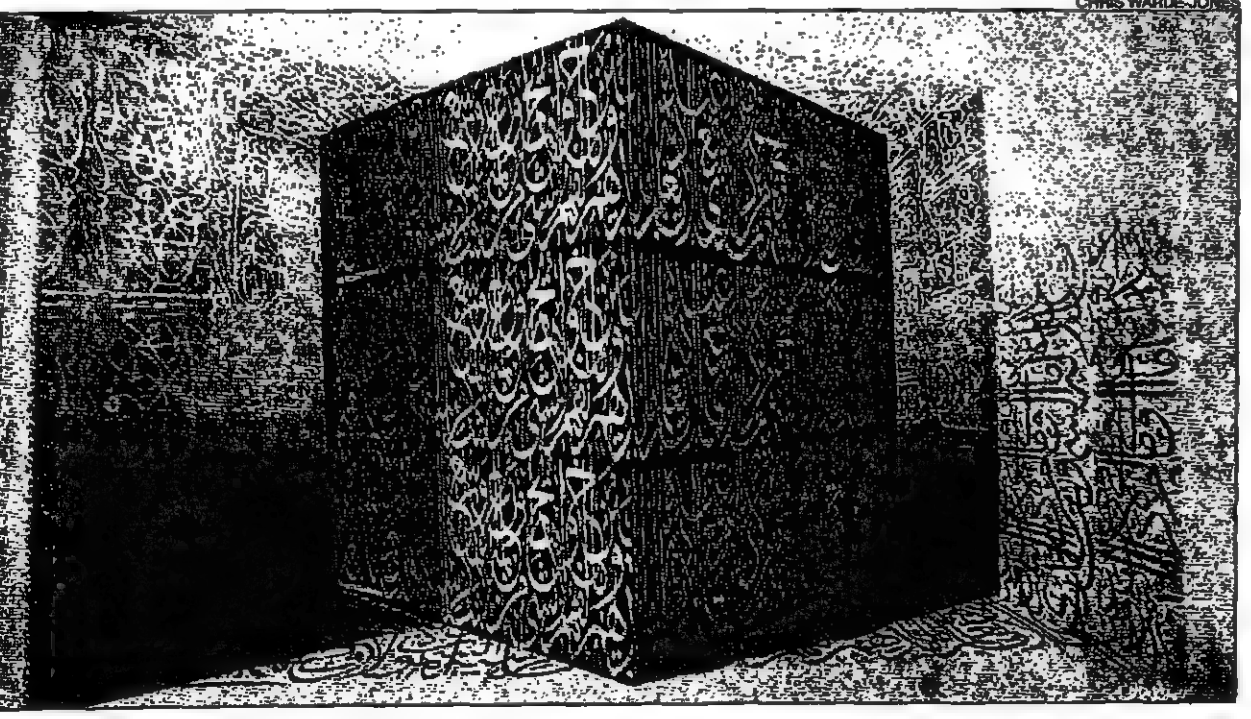
British addicts face challenge to turn off

BRITISH TV Turnoff Week — April 22-28 — coincides with some attractive viewing, not least the fate of Deirdre Rachie in *Coronation Street*, jailed for a crime she did not commit (writes Carol Midgley, Media Correspondent).

The *White Dot* also picked a bad week for sporting fixtures. England's World Cup warm-up friendly match with Portugal is being broadcast by Sky, with highlights on ITV. The Grand Prix in

San Marino will also be shown on ITV on April 26.

The first episode of *A Respectable Trade*, the BBC's four-part period drama about the slave market expected to attract more than 10 million viewers, is to be broadcast in Turnoff Week, when ITV also begins screening *The Unknown Soldier*, a drama about an unidentified First World War soldier found wandering naked on battlefields.



Interior in the Exterior, by Ahmed Moustafa, dominates the first exhibition of works by a Muslim artist staged at the Vatican this week. It is a move seen as part of the Pope's attempt at reconciling the world's three

monotheistic religions — Islam, Judaism and Christianity — for the millennium (Richard Owen writes). Cardinal Francis Arinze of Nigeria said the work of Moustafa, who was born in Egypt but lives and works in Britain, was a mark of "the hope that Christians and

Muslims can accept one another's differences and work together". Cardinal Arinze said the artist had been chosen by the Vatican because he drew on "a common stream of mystical experience".

Islamic art at Vatican

Muslims can accept one another's differences and work together". Cardinal Arinze said the artist had been chosen by the Vatican because he drew on "a common stream of mystical experience".

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

Midland mortgages are subject to security and status. A charge will be taken over the property and appropriate life policies. Midland Bank plc is regulated by the Financial Services Authority and only advises on its own life assurance, pensions and unit trusts. C1/01

What types of mortgage are there?

How much can we borrow?

What is the difference between fixed and variable interest rates?

What if something goes wrong after we move in?

Four questions you need answered before buying a home.

There are a lot of stages to buying a home. For answers to your questions, pick up a step by step guide from any Midland Bank or see the mortgage specialist there.

0800 300 129

Midland Bank
Member HSBC Group

For your free home buying guide, complete and return the coupon to: Midland Bank plc, FREEPOST NW9 1502, Manchester M15 9AZ.

Mr/Ms/Mrs/Miss/Other (please specify)

Initials

Surname

House number

Street

Town

Country

Postcode

Daytime tel no. (inc STD)

Evening tel no. (inc STD)

Are you looking to move before August? ☐ Yes ☐ No (please tick)

Are you a first time buyer? ☐ Yes ☐ No (please tick). Are you a Midland customer? ☐ Yes ☐ No (please tick). If so please supply your sort code

I would like to be contacted by a Midland mortgage specialist. ☐ Yes ☐ No (please tick)

Information from Midland in the future? ☐ Yes ☐ No (please tick)

Is 17 too young for marriage?

Will marriage solve Macaulay Culkin's problems, asks **Jason Cowley** while, below, **Bill Frost** hears of the joy and anger that teenage weddings can bring

At an age when most teenagers' heads are full of rebellion and adventure, Macaulay Culkin, the former child star of the *Home Alone* movie series, has announced that he is to marry his girlfriend, Rachel Miner. They are both 17.

A global icon before he was ten, Culkin has always been an actor in a hurry, recklessly embracing experience, confidently one step ahead of his peers. But marriage, so soon? Is this the result of a harmless teenage infatuation, the intoxication of first love? As Culkin has put it: "We're so happy and proud we have found each other at such a young age." Or is this something darker and more complicated, whose roots lie in the loneliness of his home life? Given that marriages between teenagers are four times as likely to end in divorce as those between couples older than 25, can it ever be wise to marry at 17?

The career of Culkin, like that of Drew Barrymore and other Hollywood child stars, assumes a familiar trajectory: mass adulation and outlandish wealth followed, inevitably, by alienation, dysfunction and terminal teenage boredom. Rumours of burnout, too, and of bizarre behaviour — such as his close friendship with Michael Jackson, another lost boy, with whom Culkin was seen shopping in Los Angeles wearing a false nose and beard; and his wild, drunken parties that led neighbours to call Culkin's New York apartment "party central".

The past three years have been especially traumatic for Culkin, whose childhood was spent in cramped poverty in a two-bedroom apartment in Yorkville, the German-American neighbourhood of Manhattan. At times he has resembled a piece of straw caught in the whirlwind of his parents' disintegrating relationship, blown from one side of a New York courtroom to the other, the central player in a fierce, protracted battle for custody rights and control of his faltering career.

The allegations were wounding. Kit Culkin, the failed actor who had master-

minded his son's startling rise, was accused by Patricia Brentrup, his partner of more than 20 years, of domestic violence, alcoholism and neglect. (One of the more surprising revelations to emerge during the hearing was that Kit and Patricia, who met as teenagers in Sundance, Wyoming, were not married.) Kit was also reported to have beaten his son for failing to tidy his room. He responded by accusing his wife of infidelity and indolence, and his son of indiscipline.

What gave the proceedings a frenetic charge was that, apart from personal pride, the matter at stake was nothing less than control of the Macaulay Culkin millions. *Home Alone* grossed more than £500 million, and his fortune is estimated at anything between £10 million and £25 million.

In the event, Brentrup won custody of her son and his five siblings, but Macaulay was granted access to his own money, so that he could help to ease the family's financial difficulties.

There is little doubt that Culkin was wounded by his parents' public expression of mutual contempt. He became morose, introspective, constantly smoking and withdrawing to his Manhattan apartment — "Sulkin" Culkin" to the gossip press. In a strange domestic arrangement, his parents based themselves in separate apartments in the same block as their son, a constant reminder of what had gone wrong.

Culkin is at a crucial stage in his career, suspended between the immense promise of his childhood and a stuttering attempt to redefine himself as something other than a novelty act. His most recent films — *The Pagemaster*, *Richie Rich* and the resonantly titled *Getting Even with Dad* — were critical and commercial failures. But he is not entirely forgotten. Recent parts offered to him include the role of a tattooed assassin in a forthcoming film called *The Body Piercer*, and the role of Michael Alig, self-styled leader of the Manhattan "club kids", who is in a New



Macaulay Culkin and his fiancée, 17-year-old Rachel Miner. The former child star's rapid rise to fame and fortune was followed by a troubled adolescence

York penitentiary charged with the murder of his homosexual lover. Clearly, Culkin will consider anything that might release him from the prison of his past, from the memory of the cute little boy with blond hair and flapping ears he once was.

Dorothy Rowe, the author and psycho-

Taylor, another former child star, who married in her teens and has spent the rest of her life searching for an elusive domestic happiness.

"Her early career was controlled by her mother," Rowe says, "and by getting married, it was as if she was trying to carve out her own identity. I think Culkin is doing something similar, positioning himself against the chaos of his father, showing that he can have a stable domestic life. It's a bold gamble."

So will marriage offer Macaulay Culkin the lost happiness he seeks? Not if you listen to Oliver James, the clinical psychologist and author of *Britain on the Couch*. "I think Macaulay is making a terrible mistake," James says. "Statistically, children of divorcees tend to marry younger, probably because they are more insecure about relationships. At a deeper level, too, they might be looking to repair the damage done to them by their parents, so that their marriage becomes an act of

repair. As for Culkin, everything is stacked against him, especially as teenage marriages have a high failure rate.

"Add to this the fact that he is American (the United States has even higher divorce rates than Britain), in showbusiness, getting married in his teens and the product of a broken relationship — well, the odds on his relationship surviving are infinitesimally small."

If so, Macaulay Culkin is a poor little rich boy indeed.

'Age has nothing to do with it'

Julie Burchill's voice rises an octave in horror as she recalls her days of youthful courtship and life as a teenage bride: 20 years on, the memories still rankle.

Arduously courted in the late Seventies by her fellow rock journalist Tony Parsons, she forgot her contempt for middle-class morals and conformity long enough to choose a frock and get married. With the benefit of hindsight, she now describes the relationship as one of the worst mistakes she has ever made.

On the surface they were the young media couple: glamorous, successful and almost as famous as those they wrote about in *New Musical Express*. "It wasn't a case of marrying in haste or marrying too young," says Burchill. "I was 17 when we started going out, 19 when we married. We just weren't cut out for each other. We wouldn't have made it at any age."

"We shared too many experiences and too many friends — we did the same job. There was no diversity, nothing one could tell the other that he or she didn't already know."

There were other problems, too, says Burchill, now a 38-year-old living in Brighton and horrified by her youthful lack of judgment. "We married in 1979 — don't ask why, I'm prejudiced on the subject — and within weeks he had moved me from London to Billericay, in Essex, the worst place in the world."

She cannot explain why she agreed to move but recalls her days in suburbia with loathing. "We moved to be closer to his parents. That should have warned me what was to come. "Billericay really was the end of the marriage. There



Rocky marriage: Julie Burchill and Tony Parsons in 1977

wasn't even a tea shop on the high street; if you fancied a cuppa, it had to be at home — frankly, the place was hell."

She says Parsons decided to move to Essex because he feared the competition in London; feared she might fall for another. "He was very possessive, always around my neck. I was so clever and fantastically pretty that he was scared of me running off with someone else. The relationship became very boring."

Despite the problems, Parsons stayed faithful. Burchill is irritated by any suggestion that he may have "played away" once he realised the marriage was over: "Tony did not cheat on me. In fact, he was too clinging."

"When he eventually trusted me enough, we went to London for a party. Tony's fear proved prophetic because it was there I met a new man [the writer Cosmo Landesman] and ran off with him." She wishes Macaulay Culkin well and says that if

the couple marry, his "showbusiness stories and experience might keep the vital spark glowing" in the relationship, "which is a great deal more than I can say about my time with Tony."

In contrast — although they, like Burchill and Parsons, come from stable families — Chris and Carmel Lamb's story of teenage love and marriage has lasted almost 25 years. They met as students in Brighton and defied their parents by becoming engaged.

The couple, now in their

forties, fell in love during their first term at art school. Both were 17 and virgins. "While everybody else was playing the field and smoking pot, we were making wedding plans. It seemed to both of us that we had met our life partner," says Chris, a graphic designer and father of three teenagers.

Carmel agrees that they were ideally suited from the start. "A lot of people thought 17 was too young and that we would drift apart. But we have grown even closer as we get older."

Both sets of parents tried to talk them out of it. Chris's father offered him money to travel for a year if he broke off with Carmel. The wedding was boycotted by some of the family, and their honeymoon was a winter weekend in Seaford, East Sussex.

"At 17 we were both ready to make the commitment. We were in love and knew instinctively that the relationship was going to last — and it has," says Chris.

Would they let their own teenagers take such a giant step? "Of course," says Carmel. "One is a young adult at 17, more so now than when we were that age. You are old enough to know your heart and your mind."

BILL FROST

a
for you



A beauty must have from Elizabeth Arden. Six beauty essentials perfect for travel, plus a stylish cosmetics bag

This fantastic gift is yours free when you purchase two or more products from Elizabeth Arden, one to be skincare. (Excluding any promotional offers).

Available at your nearest Elizabeth Arden counter from Saturday, 28th March to Saturday, 11th April 1998.

One gift per customer, while stocks last.

Elizabeth Arden

• Nigella Lawson is away

INDIA

Somak Holidays, one of the leading Tour Operators to India celebrates 30 years of experience by launching its most diverse India brochure yet.

- Cultural & Wildlife Tours (May 1998 – September 1999)
- Kerala Beaches & Tours (November 1998 – April 1999)
- Goa Beaches & Tours (November 1998 – April 1999)

Somak HOLIDAYS

0181 423 3000

To pick up a low cost loan, just pick up the phone.

AMOUNT OF LOAN	APR%*	36 MONTHLY REPAYMENTS	TOTAL PAYABLE
£3,000	13.9%	£101.33	£3,647.88
£5,000	12.8%	£159.66	£7,187.76

Rates correct at 14th March 1998.

0181 680 9966 0161 831 9966

LONDON MANCHESTER GLASGOW

CALL ANYTIME 9am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 5pm Saturday.

www.directline.co.uk

Please quote ref. TT6

Direct Line Financial Services Limited, 250 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow, G2 5SA. You must be aged 22 or over. Loans from £1,000 to £15,000, subject to status. Available in England, Scotland and Wales. Written quotations on request. Calls recorded and randomly monitored. Direct Line and the red phone are trademarks of Direct Line Insurance plc, used with its permission.

'I used to feel that time with the children was time stolen'

Have two high-powered job-sharers found a way to have it all?
Interview by Carol Midgley

In a recent documentary series, the BBC devoted several hours of prime-time television to exploring a great dilemma of the modern age. *Having It All* asked whether women can ever realistically satisfy the urges of both motherhood and ambition, or if trying to raise a family while pursuing a career will inevitably condemn them to feelings of guilt, frustration and personal inadequacy.

Ironically, the answer may have been sitting right under the BBC's nose all along. For the first time, the corporation has allowed two people to share the job of one programme editor, so that each can spend more time with her children. The staff of *The World Tonight*, one of Radio 4's key current affairs programmes, now have two bosses — Prue Keely and Jenni Russell.

Job-sharing itself is not uncommon. More than 700,000 people in Britain, most of them women, fill half of one full-time job. What is almost unprecedented, however, is that an employer has allowed such a senior executive position — one traditionally associated with strong leadership and singleness of vision — to be divided between two people.

Prue Keely and Jenni Russell, who approached the BBC with the idea, insist their joint assignment will work. But they know it has been greeted with cynicism from some colleagues who believe the idea is unworkable. If their critics are

right, they know it will simply encourage those who believe women must accept that they cannot have their cake and eat it. If they succeed, however, such job-sharing could well become the model for the future at the BBC and other organisations, throwing a lifeline to thousands of mothers torn between home and high-powered jobs.

Until February, Ms Russell, 37, was working full-time as the editor of policy and social programmes for Radio 5 Live. Although she loved her job, she says she was beginning to feel like a bit-part player in the lives of her children, Jessica, nine, and Harry, six. She had never met her daughter's teacher and felt that her maternal role was being demoted into merely looking in on the children at night. Her husband, Stephen Lambert, the editor of the BBC's *Modern Times*, also works long hours, and so the couple were dependent on their full-time nanny.

Prue Keely, 51, had already been working part-time for Channel 4 as the producer of *First Edition*. She spent years working for *Channel 4 News*, but always resisted working full-time for the sake of her children, George, 13 and Archie, ten. Also, she was able to do voluntary work with an NHS care trust.

"There were points in my life when I felt horribly cut off from my children," says Ms Russell. "There was this terrifying feeling of not really

knowing them. There are these two wonderful children and I was missing out on so much of their lives. I was feeling guilty a lot of the time."

Having had a string of unsuitable nannies, Ms Russell found the days she did have off were spent tidying the house while the nanny took out the children because cleaning was not part of her job description.

Ms Keely, whose husband is the chairman of the Financial Services Authority, adds: "The point is that you don't have children not to spend time with them. But that doesn't mean that you don't want a job that is interesting and stimulating while being a mother."

"I have always had an au-pair. My kids have always had that feeling of me being around and I wanted to carry it on. I thought that I would always regret it if they hit their teens and I had not seen them grow up. Working part-time has always suited me. It is also very productive, because you make better use of your time when you are at work. You are much more focused. But, of course, Jenni and I are very lucky in that we have husbands with good jobs and we can afford to take less money."

The women have been friends for eight years and decided to apply for the job together. "We had no idea what the reaction was going to be. For all we knew they could have just dismissed it. As it happens, they were fantastic," they say.

They had good reason to be pessimistic. The Equal Opportunities Commission says job sharing at executive level is virtually non-existent because employers are reluctant to dilute key jobs. Last year Janet Schofield won £20,000 in a landmark test case against her employer, Zurich Insurance, when it refused to let her share her job as marketing support manager. It had said she was "too important". Employers were duly warned that they face legal action if they are not prepared to allow executives to share jobs.

Staff also often complain about having two masters. One BBC insider not connected with the programme says:

"Job shares are great for the sharers — but not so brilliant for those who have to work underneath them full-time. There tend to be a lot of communication problems, having to say things twice all the time, which can drive you mad."

The benefits of job-sharing are that it promotes a positive image of the company, helps to retain experienced staff, and gives the department a complement of skills. And as Ms Russell and Ms Keely point out, it will enable them to stay in touch with real life, rather than making programmes from within a journalistic ivory tower.

"You can become completely obsessed with internal office politics and that gets in the way of making the best possible programme," says Ms

'We had no idea what the reaction would be. The BBC could have just dismissed the idea'

Keely. "In a big organisation it is hard to get out and have that fresh-air feel that we want. For instance, 20 years ago the programme would have been about the Cold War, but now we are looking at things that are relevant to modern people's lives, such as sexual morality or whether step-families work."

Ms Keely says she chose to continue her voluntary work because it helped to give her a wider view of society. "Journalists spend so much time talking to other journalists and politicians and people in the office that they forget what's really going on out there."

Under their arrangement they work either Monday and Tuesday, or Thursday and Friday. Both of them came in on Wednesdays. "We knew we had to have that crossover day and the BBC agreed to it, so we were delighted," says Ms Russell.

"We talk all the time, even when one of us is at home. It is really nice to share things. If we disagree on something, we just talk to one another and sort it out. You can do things in a collegiate way and there is

a big advantage in having a second brain."

Both are quick to dismiss the suggestion that, for egotistical reasons, men may not be as suited to executive job-sharing as women. "There are a lot of very capable men in this organisation whom I had always assumed would want to work full-time but who turned round and said 'My God, why didn't you ask me?' when I told them what I was doing," says Ms Russell.

"Men love their children as much as we do and I think they get a bad deal. They should not have to do this jacket-on-the-back-of-the-chair thing. There is a bad culture developing. People are under pressure to work longer and longer hours."

Ms Russell says her children are thrilled with the new arrangement.

"They are absolutely joyful. They work out which are Mummy's non-working days and really look forward to me being there. And when I am at home it isn't as intense. They are not trying to grab my attention all the time."

"One of the best things is not feeling guilty about the fact you are at work. I used to feel that time with the children was stolen time. Their teacher didn't know who I was until a few weeks ago because the nanny always picked them up. It is also better at work because you are not as distracted thinking about home."

Both women know that a part-time worker often has to cope with lower status in the workplace than a full-timer. They also realise that there is scepticism towards the idea of a dual editor inside and outside the BBC. "The media commentator Roy Greenslade came on the programme to talk about whether it would work having both Rosie Boycott and Andrew Marr editing *The Independent*," says Ms Russell. He said it would be a disaster because an editor needed a single vision and he thought 'oh dear!'

"We know we have to make it work for the staff but we believe that this fresher approach is already showing on the programme. If this works, then perhaps we will be moving towards a time when more mothers with careers can have this option as well."



Sharing the executive job: Radio 4 editors Prue Keely and Jenni Russell have set a precedent at the BBC

Why it's no longer cool to be cool

Nick Foulkes on the fast-changing game of social one-upmanship

Tara Palmer-Tomkinson has apparently got rid of her mobile phone because people insisted on calling her on it. Presumably the poor lamb was faced with the impossible dilemma of having to answer it or letting it ring. Simpler by far to do without it.

This is important news, and not just for providers of mobile telephones — I am glad I sold my Vodafone shares before I heard. The real significance of this gesture lies in its implications for social one-upmanship.

Some of us can remember a time when it was actually fashionable to receive calls on one's cellular phone. People would proudly compare telephones, brag about battery life, and natter on about a myriad features.

But when public transport became full of people telephoning each other to say that they were on their mobile phones, there was only one thing for a fashion leader of Tara's status to do: ditch the mobile.

Tara's latest stand is only the most public example of what so many fashionable metropolitan types are trying to do. As the whirlwind of fashion spins ever faster, so the need to distance oneself from *hoi polloi*, by whatever means possible, becomes more pressing.

So Byzantine is the nature of being *branché* that one might be handed a card by someone listing a panoply of communications options including home phone, office phone, fax, e-mail, Website and mobile.

This, of course, has nothing to do with keeping in touch, but is merely a potent demonstration of technological proficiency and general up-to-the-minute-ness. Should one lose the card and try to trace the person through the telephone book, he or she will inevitably be ex-diretory.

When dealing with anything fashion-related, timing is everything. Cool *Britannia* is, of course, anything but. As soon as the Government hijacked dismembered sheep, Britpop et al, it was time to move on. And while fashion lemmings twitter about the Pharmacy, the really low-temperature crowd is hanging out at White's Club watching the cricket.

Indeed, I believe that even the word cool is well past its sell-by date. I am told that the new way of expressing approval is to say that a new restaurant, hairstyle, type of yoga or whatever is fantastic.

but only if the word is pronounced with stress on the last syllable, *fantASTic*.

As a useful rule of thumb, when something is seen everywhere, be it Gucci kitten heels or a certain type of training shoe, it is time to dump it. There is even a school of thought that argues that a training shoe ceases to be truly chic the moment that it becomes commercially available in the United Kingdom.

When dropping something, it is best to do it publicly. Tara has, of course, got the right idea and uses her agent to signal her communication dilemma — and her grasp of social one-upmanship — to a grateful world. Others call press conferences or give in-



Turned off: mobile phones

terviews to demonstrate their social and stylistic superiority. Indeed, one of the most weighty, and perhaps apocryphal, pronouncements by a London style leader ran something like this: "My wife and I used to eat sea bass until it became a cliché."

However, not all of us can afford an agent or have the gravitas to call a press conference every time we change our dietary habits. Therefore we have to issue our own put-downs on a much more personal level. Usually a pointed remark along the lines of "that's so five minutes ago" or something like "he is still eating modern British/Fusion/Rim" goes a long way to establishing one's credentials.

Early trend watcher Nancy Mitford had it easy when she put together *Noblesse Oblige* and even the *Sloane Ranger Handbook* could at least count on a lifestyle trend lasting longer than half an hour. Today current usage changes so rapidly that one is "over it", as they say in fashion circles, well before it has reached the common herd.

ARTS

It's not the Friel thing: Benedict Nightingale reviews Brian Friel's new play
Pages 33-35

"IT GIVES PARTICULAR BENEFITS OF MOTIVATION BOTH TO STAFF AND MANAGEMENT"

Rosaria Wilson, Wilson Kinna

Rosaria Wilson and over 30,000 other employers already insist on the AAT for their accountancy training at technician level.

The AAT's Education and Training Scheme is available at more than 450 training centres in the UK. Many employers also choose to train their staff in-house, with the AAT's support and approval.

AAT students look forward to a professional qualification — the chance to enjoy all the benefits, support and status of being a Member of the Association of Accounting Technicians (MAAT).

For proven quality and staff who can deliver, think AAT.

Find out how the AAT can help you with your accountancy training needs.

AAT - The Gold Standard for Accounting Technicians

The AAT exists to promote and advance competence and professional development in accounting. Registered as a Charity, No 1050794.

CALL WENDY JAMESON
0171-614 6994
POST THE COUPON TODAY OR
EMAIL aat@aat.co.uk
0203 878 0000

POST TO: Wendy James, Association of Accounting Technicians, 134 Clerkenwell Road, London EC1R 5AD.
Please send me further details of how the AAT can help me:

Name _____
Position _____
Address _____

Tel _____
Fax _____
I am interested in training myself ☐ staff ☐
(please tick relevant box)

AAT
ASSOCIATION
OF ACCOUNTING
TECHNICIANS

SWIFTCALL

LOW COST

10% DISCOUNT

Australia	18p	N. Zealand	27p
Germany	12p	Pakistan	72p
Hong Kong	27p	S. Africa	34p
India	50p	Thailand	72p
Ireland	10p	UK	5p
Japan	20p	USA	8p

Call us today for details on fantastic savings to hundreds of other destinations and how to open your pre-paid account.

0800 769 0033

Call 1600 794 381 if you live in Ireland.
1800 836 5005 if you live in the USA.

BUSINESS 0800 769 2222

These call prices are available 7 days a week, midnight - 11pm. Discounts based on a minimum pre-payment of £100. Our service is available to you today. Prices correct as of 08.02.98.



HIS MASTER'S VOICE

Criticism of Campbell should be directed at Blair

The spin-doctor is to modern politics what the Druid was to Ancient Britain — a character supposedly possessed of supernatural powers who is in fact discharging a normal task. Spin-doctoring is no more than the effective management of information, as much and as mundane a part of government as the effective management of VAT receipts. The Conservative Party, although it benefited from modern communication techniques in the Eighties, now exaggerates their power and deprecates their influence. The Tories, still coming to terms with defeat, are inclined to attribute Labour's victory at the last election to "spin", as though they were somehow cheated. If the Tories persist in that error they will find themselves punished again.

Their delusion inclines some Tories to concentrate critical fire on those individuals in the Government responsible for handling information: the Minister without Portfolio, Peter Mandelson, and the Prime Minister's press secretary, Alastair Campbell. Mr Mandelson and Mr Campbell have left the nursery far enough behind to need no nannying but recent attacks on Mr Campbell deserve a proper response.

Mr Campbell has been accused of deception and criticised for high-handedness when all he was doing was respecting a confidence and invoking collective responsibility. That collective responsibility may feel too constricting to some ministers; but if they feel their freedom is limited, their anger should be directed at Tony Blair. The criminal may curse the policeman but his real quarrel is with those who make the rules, not those who enforce them.

The leaking of two memos written by Mr Campbell to Social Security ministers, impressing the virtues of discretion on them in the run-up to the Budget, has been used to

suggest that he is arrogantly overreaching himself in ordering about elected representatives. But, whatever his personal qualities, Mr Campbell's words carry weight only because ministers, and journalists, know he represents his master.

The recipients of those memos, Frank Field and Harriet Harman, would have taken them seriously because they knew that actions taken by their department had angered their leader. Those, inside or outside government, who object to ministerial pronouncements being so tightly regulated from the centre should not shoot the messenger, but recognise that their real dispute is with Downing Street.

The Prime Minister is adopting an increasingly presidential style of government, with all save a few close colleagues kept at arm's length. Mr Blair would regard the thought of being first among equals as a demotion. The centralisation of power in his hands, to be entrenched by the likely creation of a new Prime Minister's Department, may bring efficiency gains of real value, but who will be left to whisper thoughts of mortality in the imperial ear?

Mr Blair's techniques may recall, indeed be intended to build on, Margaret Thatcher's own assertive style of leadership, but the arrogance which allowed her to achieve so much was also her undoing. The Prime Minister would be well advised to treat his Cabinet more indulgently, to exploit its collective wisdom without compromising his authority. By binding more ministers into his thinking his policies would find reader, and better, defenders. An embattled press secretary would then find that the burden of being his master's voice was lightened, and politicians of all parties could concentrate on arguments in the open rather than firing at figures in the dark.

WASHINGTON WAITS

The Middle East peace process needs intensive US involvement

Dennis Ross, the American mediator, has been to the Middle East so often that familiarity seems to have bred contempt on all sides. After his latest five-day tour failed to produce an immediate breakthrough, Mr Ross appeared inclined to discount the entire enterprise. The peace process was, he said, in "dire straits". He further intimated that the United States might abandon its role as mediator. A set of meetings in Washington this week will determine what the Clinton Administration chooses to do next. For all their obvious frustration, the Americans would be unwise to abandon the field of diplomacy. The stakes in the region are far too high and the position is not hopeless.

The present impasse might seem like a storm in a teacup. The central issue is a further Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank. The Americans had indicated that an additional 13.1 per cent of territory should exchange hands, conditional on efforts by the Palestinians to meet Israel's security concerns. Benjamin Netanyahu initially offered 9 per cent and also sought stronger assurances from Yasser Arafat. Outsiders may be tempted to raise their eyes and urge all parties to split the difference. This is, apparently, what Mr Netanyahu suggested although it will not have endeared him to some of his Cabinet colleagues. Nonetheless, it has not proved possible to make progress.

This is in large part because matters are never as simple as they seem in this region. The numbers in dispute might well appear almost pathetically small but their impact is much more significant. Each percentage of the West Bank involves an area approximately the area of Tel Aviv. The security implications (in terms of access to key roads) and resource consequences (particularly for scarce water supplies) are immense. Both

sides are entitled to bargain with some determination. The fact that they will fight their corner does not necessarily mean that an accommodation cannot be achieved. What it certainly implies is that every inch will be difficult. This makes life for the middleman an utter misery. It also illustrates the need for external involvement.

It would be a severe mistake for the United States to suspend its involvement for even a symbolic period. Washington cannot assume that a sharp burst of anger at this time will lead Israel or the Palestinians to frame concessions that would not have been offered otherwise. Neither Mr Netanyahu's need to demonstrate that peace will mean security, nor Mr Arafat's desire to display that peace delivers results, would be altered by American disapproval. Mr Ross rightly argues that compromise cannot be imposed. That should not mean that the best channel of communication between the two camps is withdrawn. The United States remains the only outside actor of consequence.

The Clinton Administration does need to reconsider the means of its mediation. It has relied disproportionately on Mr Ross and his shuttle diplomacy for too long. It has also allowed itself to become bogged down in details of devilish complexity. The peace process will not travel much further on this formula. In the short run, the Palestinians should take what Mr Netanyahu has made available and seek a revised timetable for the territory at present in dispute. The United States should host the so-called "final status" stage of negotiations as soon as possible. All the crucial issues need to be placed on the table and dealt with directly. If President Clinton and Madeleine Albright want such a shift to succeed, then they must be ready to convene these talks themselves.

DUE COMPENSATION

Britain has its own war debts to repay

After war broke out in 1939, Britain did not face only Germany and Italy on the battlefield. Three Balkan states — Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria — allied themselves with Hitler. The Government considered them to be fellow belligerents, and therefore felt entitled to freeze any assets their citizens held in this country, regardless of who had deposited them or why. In so doing, Britain laid hands on a number of bank accounts opened by Jews and others who sent their money abroad for safe keeping and who subsequently were murdered or victimised by Nazi puppets and occupiers. These people have never recovered their money.

After the war, Britain used the assets to compensate British citizens whose property in the three countries was confiscated by the Communists. The Government agreed to consider the claims of Nazi victims, but cynically insisted that they must apply in person to a British court. Across the Iron Curtain, this was virtually impossible. A token ex-gratia payment was made in 1948, and a decade later £250,000 was paid into a fund to help a small number of victims. Otherwise, Britain considered the matter closed. The Government kept the bulk of the estimated £30 million deposited before 1939. More than 50 years later, communism has collapsed and so have the excuses. Stung by accusations that Britain had behaved with the same unprincipled self-interest that it so loudly attributed to the Swiss, the Government set up an historical inquiry, the document-

ents on Switzerland's gold-trading with the Nazis. That report is to be published by the Department of Trade and Industry on Friday. The indications are that it will not propose giving claimants their money in full.

The report was completed by last December, when Britain hosted the conference on Nazi gold. The Government claimed, lamely, that Margaret Beckett had not had time to read it, and so delayed publication. Many will suspect that the real reason was that the DTI had no intention of making full restitution and was desperate to avoid the charge of hypocrisy — lambasting the Swiss while behaving in the same way. But as Jewish campaigners have made clear, nothing else is acceptable. No one is asking for charity, or a hardship fund. Those who have already written to the Government, and been fobbed off with the instruction to apply through their ministries at home, are demanding no less than their rights. It is a moral issue. To duck it would be utterly unconscionable.

Some 25,000 accounts were seized. Some belonged to Nazis and their supporters, who have no claim to compensation. Many of the original depositors are now dead and others are very elderly. Tracing them is as difficult as weeding out bogus claims and fraudulent family histories. But no legal casuistry must be allowed to perpetuate this shameful delay. Victims have been doubly deceived: by the Nazis and by the country to which they entrusted their savings. They must be repaid in full.

Note of discord on Abbey suspension

From His Honour Judge Christopher Compston

Sir, There is a short-term solution to the controversy surrounding the suspension by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster Abbey of Martin Neary, the Organist and Master of the Choristers (reports, March 30 and 31). The long-term solution is more difficult and may require legislation. At heart, this is a power struggle.

In this country, we are presumed innocent until proved guilty. Furthermore, a fair trial demands that the judge is independent.

Rightly or wrongly the Dean will be seen to have made up his mind on Dr Neary. Therefore neither he nor the Chapter should continue to chair the investigation. An independent tribunal is needed — and needed now. Surely Buckingham Palace should now intervene and a senior judge should be found.

The matters in dispute appear to be minor — a trivial court dispute worthy of District Judge Trollope in the Barchester County Court. In the meantime, Dr Neary should be reinstated so that he can concentrate on the Easter services and the Easter concert. I have no doubt that, with his characteristic graciousness and innate professionalism, he would do this.

The trial of Jesus which preceded the Crucifixion and the Resurrection was a mockery. If there is no independent investigation now, despite all the pomp and circumstance, the Easter services in the Abbey will be a mockery too.

Yours sincerely,
CHRISTOPHER COMPSTON,
c/o Royal Courts of Justice,
Strand WC2A 2LL,
March 31.

From Mr Bret Johnson

Sir, How can the authorities of Westminster Abbey suspend from duty the man who, within a mere two and a half days, put together the most magnificent music for the funeral service of Diana, Princess of Wales, so flawlessly and memorably performed and seen and heard by millions worldwide?

Dr Neary has given unique service to cathedral music by his high standards and tireless work with generations of chorists. Those of us who are parents of choirboys entrusted to his care have been inspired by his work, no less than the boys whose trust he so skilfully earns. But now he and his wife have been publicly humiliated because of a "dispute".

This sort of thing is becoming, alas, all too common in the tortured world of business and other areas of life. Must we now come to expect it from Westminster Abbey, the Christian heart of our national life?

Yours faithfully,
BRET JOHNSON,
Brookleigh House,
Lammarsh, Bures, Suffolk CO8 5ES,
March 30.

Diabetic drivers

From the Director General of the British Diabetic Association

Sir, This association, which supports a strong road safety policy, makes a point of informing members of their legal responsibilities and the importance of good control and self-monitoring of their diabetes, especially when driving (letters, March 23 and 26).

However, the Government's blanket ban bars all diabetic drivers with the same brush. It flies in the face of independent medical evidence which shows no significant difference in accident rates between diabetic and non-diabetic drivers.

In fact the Government did not need to impose this blanket ban. The UK regulations were introduced following an EU directive which allows member states flexibility in granting licences for larger vehicles (3.5 to 7.5 tonnes and minibuses with nine to 15 seats). Some EU states have taken advantage of this to grant licences in certain cases.

We have discussed the issue with the Government, proposing that individuals should be allocated licences on a case-by-case basis. Surely this must be the best and right way forward in the interests of road safety and individual rights?

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL COOPER,
Director General,
The British Diabetic Association,
10 Queen Anne Street, W1M 0BD,
March 26.

Open options

From Earl Russell

Sir, William Rees-Mogg ("Hague is the man to speak for England", March 30) describes Labour as "the presumed coalition partners" of the Liberal Democrats in the Scottish parliament.

Only this weekend Jim Wallace, MP, leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats, issued a warning against such a presumption.

Scottish Liberal Democrats will take their decision on policy issues when the time comes.

Yours sincerely,
RUSSELL,
House of Lords,
March 30.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

State pensions and welfare reform

From Sir Robert McCrindle

Sir, It is no doubt true, as Tim Congdon suggests (article, March 27), that there is an element of risk in making second pensions compulsory. But it is not also true that there is a risk in allowing the arrangement of a second pension to go on being a voluntary arrangement.

If past experience is anything to go by, the responsible members of society will need little persuasion. Perhaps others can be persuaded by more generous tax concessions, but the bulk of the population is likely to go on leaving it to the State to provide a reasonable standard of living in retirement.

Many people contend that compulsory second pensions constitute a new tax. That is probably true. But if on retirement millions are forced to seek assistance from the State, that could only be provided out of taxation.

The difference is that the burden would then fall in part on the prudent pensioner and in part on the then working population.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT MCCRINDLE,
26 Ashburnham Gardens,
Upminster, Essex RM14 1XA,
rmccrindle@aol.com
March 22.

From Mr Joe Buchdahl

Sir, It is lucky for Labour's proposed welfare reform that Gordon Brown chose to raise rather than lower the inheritance tax exemption threshold in the Budget. If people are to be encouraged to save for themselves and their children, and not rely on the State to support them in old age, such tax breaks should indeed be increased, not cut.

The changes in the taxation of

private pension schemes in Labour's first Budget last year provide little comfort for those now considering a more independent means of saving for retirement.

Yours faithfully,
JOE BUCHDAHL,
10 Darlington Road,
Whittington, Manchester M20 1JB,
j.buchdahl@mmu.ac.uk
March 27.

From Mr Jack Canny

Sir, I think it only right that, as the state retirement pension is taxable, any figure quoted as being the annual cost to the Exchequer should be net of tax. Your report today on the Government's Green Paper on welfare put this figure at £31.8 billion, but does not say whether this is before or after tax, an important omission in the light of the current debate on the subject of the means-testing of benefits.

What is taxation if it is not a form of means-testing?

Yours faithfully,
JACK CANNY,
9 Rectory Close,
Godalming, Surrey GU7 1TT,
March 27.

From Mr John Biggs

Sir, Karl Marx wrote in 1875: "From each according to his abilities, to each according to his needs," which sounds like a very good summary of the proposals to make work replace welfare benefits. Do we now have a truly communist government?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN BIGGS,
Pippins, Stonesfield Lane,
Charlbury, Oxfordshire OX7 3ER,
jbiggs@oxway.u-net.com
March 27.

from the responsibility to ensure that its passengers are legally entitled to enter Britain. Belgian police authorities are convinced that criminal networks are exploiting this loophole (by providing tickets) and an investigation is taking place.

Most of the illegal immigrants involved — who, when asked, showed no interest in seeking asylum in Belgium — are in fact doing what they have been ordered to do: leave Belgium and the Schengen area within seven days or face forced repatriation.

Minister Vande Lanotte has now decided, and Mr Straw has been informed, that for as long as the loophole has not been plugged, Belgium will stop these hapless people from boarding the Eurostar, unless they can show valid travel documents for Britain. Immigration officials of both countries are already co-operating on this matter.

Yours sincerely,
LODE WILLEMS,
Embassy of Belgium,
103 Eaton Square,
London SW1W 9AB,
March 30.

Belgium and refugees

From the Ambassador of Belgium

Sir, With regard to the recent problem of illegal immigrants on the Eurostar to Britain (report, March 26), it was factually and morally wrong to tell your readers that "Belgium has let down both refugees and EU partners" (in the subheading of your leading article, March 27).

When the Belgian Minister of the Interior, Johan Vande Lanotte, called the Home Secretary last Thursday (and not the other way round, as you claim) it was certainly not to perform some "back-passing" or to clear his "own patch" but to stop the emerging "influx".

It is, indeed, "hysterical nonsense" as Immigration Minister Mike O'Brien described it (on Radio 4 in the 6 o'clock news, March 25), to suggest as you do that Belgium is allowing Britain to be flooded with illegal immigrants. There is neither "corruption" nor "extraordinary laxity" involved.

But there is, as you rightly put it, a legal loophole that exempts Eurostar

In praise of West Pier

From the Chairman of the National Piers Society

Sir, I must take issue with Matthew Parris in his belief that the rescue of Brighton West Pier "is a bad thing" ("Live and let crumble", March 27).

For far from being "a perfectly uninteresting example of 19th-century folly ironwork on stilts" the pier has Grade I listed status. It isn't some kind of Victorian relic; rather, it has constantly developed, with the concert hall (built 1916) and southern-end pavilion (1893) dating from well after the original 1866 construction date. It will now be adapted for modern-day needs.

Had the money not been allocated, it would have been spent on something else in the heritage field. In any case, restoration creates much-needed work in the construction industry, and full-time positions once the structure is revived.

I hope Mr Parris can join us at the celebrations.

Yours faithfully,
TIM MICKLEBURGH,
Chairman,
National Piers Society,
33 Littlefield Lane,
Grimby DN31 2AZ,
March 30.

New-style FO

From Mrs Lois Chevis

Sir, You quote a "Whitehall source" (report, March 23; see also letters, March 29), on the subject of advertising for ambassadors, as saying that the present Foreign Office career structure "creates a closeted culture in which mandarins speak a rarefied language".

The Queen's English perhaps?

Yours,
LOIS CHEVIS,
The Platt, 9 College Hill Terrace,
Haslemere, Surrey GU27 2JL,
March 28.

Poets' corner

From Mr W. S. Becket

Sir, When mentioning Keats and Bob Dylan in the same breath (leading article, "Blowing in the wind", March 28) should you not start by drawing a distinction between art and entertainment?

Yours faithfully,
W. S. BECKET,
37 Rhyl Fodog,
Deiniolen, Gwynedd LL55 3HL,
March 28.

Flora and fauna of roadside verges

From Jill Duchess of Hamilton

Sir, The lament about gaudy double cultivars, echoed in today's letter on daffodils from Mr David Pearman, President of the Royal Botanical Society of the British Isles, was fore-shadowed by William Morris in a lecture over a century ago:

Be very shy of double flowers; choose the old columbine where the clustering doves are unmistakable and distinct, not the double one where they run into mere tatters. Choose (if you can get it) the old chrysanthemum with the yellow centre... Don't be swindled out of that wonder of beauty, a single snowdrop; there is no gain and plenty of loss in the double one.

Experiments conducted at the Cambridge Botanic Gardens for Flora-for-Fauna, a charity to encourage gardeners to grow native plants, show that single flowers are a valuable source of nectar for insects, such as bees and butterflies, whereas many modern cultivars provide meagre fare. Some of the latter have little or no nectar; others produce nectar but insects cannot reach it — they are obstructed by double petals or "improvements" in the bloom.

Species daffodils are pollinated by early-flying, short-tongued bumble bees. These push past the central column of anthers surrounding the single-style to reach nectar at the base. Early-flying flies and other bees also visit, but the large bumble bee can barely fit inside the flower. It is urgent that experiments are carried out to see which cultivars of daffodils — if any — have nectar and, if they have, whether the insects can gain access.

Local flora have co-evolved with the local fauna: no holly — no holly blue butterfly; no buckthorn — no brimstone butterfly; no heather — no insects, no grouse; no insects — no bats, no swallows, no swallows. Would daffodil cultivars be grown so widely if people knew that in doing so they were depriving insects and birds?

Yours faithfully,
JILL HAMILTON
(Co-ordinator, Flora-for-Fauna),
c/o The Linnean Society,
Burlington House,
Piccadilly, W1V 0LQ,
March 28.

From Mrs Dallas M. Green

Sir, I was dismayed to read of Mr Pearman's abhorrence for the swaths of daffodils now adorning more and more roadside verges in our land.

I understand the botanical reason for his disapproval of many of these cultivars; nevertheless I sincerely hope that the majority of people will, as I do, rejoice at this joyous sight and feel their spirits lifted by the colour and movement of the flowers which so beautifully brighten our winter-grimed verges.

Long may they flourish!

Yours faithfully,
DALLAS M. GREEN,
34 The Deerings,
Harpenden,
Hertfordshire AL5 2PE,
March 28.

From Mr William Waterson

Sir, I love all the hundreds of varieties of daffodil, cultivars as well as natives, and I look forward to the day when they will outnumber the drinks tins and potato-crisp packets at the roadside.

Every year I echo Herrick's lines, written in 1648:

Fair daffodils, we weep to see
You have away so soon...

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM R. WATERTON,
Waterfall Cottage,
8 Colinton Gardens,
Newtownabbey,
Co Antrim BT36 7JH,
March 28.

In all innocence

From Mr Quentin Langley

Sir, Surely the jailing of Deirdre Rachid (report, March 31) is excellent news for new Labour.

It enables the Home Secretary to claim that the Government is tough on crime, without actually making a decision. And the jailing of a fictional character will cost the Chancellor nothing.

Yours sincerely,
QUENTIN LANGLEY,
55 Hillview Court,
Woking, Surrey GU24 7QW,
March 31.

From Miss Beryl M. Goldsmith

Sir, A breathless nation awaits the inevitable prime ministerial announcement designating Deirdre Rachid "the People's Prisoner".

Come on Tony.

Yours faithfully,
BERYL M. GOLDSMITH,
34 Thomas More House,
Barbican, EC2Y 8BT,
March 31.

From Mr J. R. Farrow

Sir, Your account of the Weatherfield One case refers to the switchboard at Granada being flooded with calls. In the old days, metaphorically, very busy switchboards became jammed.

Perhaps it's all to do with new technology, or even El Niño?

Yours sincerely,
JOHN FARROW,
14 Stow Park Circle,
Newport, Gwent NP9 4HF,
March 31.

Business letters, page 27

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.
e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

FRED POOLEY



Fred Pooley, CBE, architect and town planner, died on March 11 aged 81. He was born in London on April 18, 1916.

A left-wing planner deeply preoccupied with problems of transportation, and with a faith in public transport, Fred Pooley had a vision that was, in the 1960s, far ahead of its time. This was to build a city free of cars. He christened it Monorail City, a conception in which no one would be more than seven minutes' walk from a station. The site for this revolutionary idea was to be in north Buckinghamshire (afterwards Milton Keynes). It was to be his answer to the already fast-growing menace of urban sprawl.

Frederick Bernard Pooley was born in West Ham, the son of a local builder. He was educated at West Ham Grammar School, from where he went on to study architecture as a part-time evening student at the Northern Polytechnic, working in the borough engineer's department by day. After qualifying, he joined West Ham's architect's department and took several other courses, among them town planning and structural engineering.

During the war he served in the Royal Engineers, returning after demobilisation to West Ham Borough Council as deputy borough architect and planning officer. His energies were much needed in an area of London which had been so devastated by bombing.

Six years of this experience eminently qualified him for working on the reconstruction of Coventry where the wartime destruction was even more concentrated. In 1951 he was appointed deputy architect and planning officer under Donald Gibson. Gibson was a powerful advocate of industrialised building systems which had sprung to prominence at the end of the war when such traditional materials as timber



Fred Pooley's Burnham Branch Library in Buckinghamshire, opened in 1974

and bricks were scarce. Originally pioneered by the firm of Hills for the design of Hertfordshire infant and primary schools, the systems enjoyed great success on this small scale.

Unfortunately, however, they became applied in situations ranging from large educational buildings to hospitals and housing. For Gibson, a favourite among them was CLASP, an ingenious industrialised school building system he was developing. Pooley was practically alone among public authority architects in opposing this form of prefabrication. He disliked CLASP for its inflexibility. He found that it was apt to conflict with the genius loci of a place. He also saw its practical difficulties and refused to adopt CLASP (which Gibson urged him to do) when he was made Chief Architect and Planning Officer of Buckinghamshire County Council in 1953.

When the Buckinghamshire job came along he thought "Right, I'll do it my way now". He was the right man to cope with the postwar population increase and the correspondingly large educational requirement.

Pooley's method of building was to go for traditional brickwork and pitched roofs. For the former he used second-hand stock bricks from London's bombed sites which he said

had the advantage of "instant maturity". Common sense was his guide as a designer. His schools, libraries and residential schemes may not have been examples of modern architecture as perceived at that time, but they suited the village scale of their sites. They also lasted and did not leak.

Then came his plan to relieve the pressure of development on the southern end of the county, presenting the opportunity to build his Monorail City for 200,000 to the north — Milton Keynes. Pooley had the backing and funding from central and local government, and from the private sector, for a scheme which set out to protect the Green Belt from development. He planned the city for an area round Aylesbury Vale, between Stony Stratford in the north and Bleckley in the south. It was to be in the form of a figure-of-eight, with twenty or so villages tracing the general shape like beads, each one having a monorail station. At the heart of this was to be the city centre. Thus, cars would be obsolete for all intra-city travel.

It was a brilliant solution, and the completed work was announced to the press in 1966, the concept of "monorail" immediately making the headlines. At that point the Labour Government intervened, referring the venture to the New Towns Commission. This took it

out of Pooley's hands, formed the Development Corporation and passed the planning to another architect. From then on it became a car-orientated city, a total negation of Pooley's vision.

One of Pooley's last important works for the county was the establishment of Buckingham as a university town next door to Milton Keynes. He also created the Buckingham Development Company to regulate development around the immediate area. In partnership with local councils and developers, it provided a method of controlling building as well as making a profit for the participants. He also led the campaign to stop the location of the third London airport in the beautiful countryside near Wing, between Aylesbury and Milton Keynes.

His tower for the county offices at Aylesbury — nicknamed Fred's Fort — was, however, probably his least liked work; but it was a landmark for the old town. In 1973 Pooley was President of the Royal Institute of British Architects and was made a research fellow of Merton College, Oxford. In 1974 he was appointed Controller of Planning and Transportation at the Greater London Council, four years later going on to become its Chief Architect.

Pooley was appointed CBE in 1968. His wife predeceased him, and he is survived by his three daughters.

MARC SAUTET

Marc Sautet, French philosopher, died from cancer on March 3 aged 51. He was born in Normandy on February 25, 1947.



MARC SAUTET was the man who gave a new and more democratic lease of life to a venerable French tradition: philosophising in cafés. Since 1992, when he first started holding informal Sunday discussions in the Bastille area of Paris, the "cafés-philos" have developed into a movement with some 60 similar centres of weekly discussion all over France. Sessions have also taken place in London, Tokyo and New York.

A lecturer at the Institut des Etudes Politiques in Paris, Sautet was, like many others of his generation, a former Trotskyist. He was also a Nietzsche specialist who had edited a number of books and written an accessible introduction to the German philosopher's work.

Sautet did not belong to the group of star French philosophers who produce bestsellers and make regular appearances on TV discussions. But the success of his café initiative did reflect the same need for basic moral and philosophical bearings as the recent success of a number of philosophical books offering what purists disparagingly call "ready-to-think" or "off-the-peg" concepts.

Sautet began branching out from academic life when he opened his own "cabinet de philosophie" in the Marais, offering consultations and charging rates comparable to those a psychoanalyst might charge: Fr300 for an hour. "I help my customers to structure their thoughts. I am there to feed their doubts by asking

the right questions, not to give answers," he claimed. Designed essentially for businessmen, the consultancy service was not a roaring success, but Sautet never abandoned it. Indeed, it was the attempt to invigorate it that led to the café sessions.

He held his first informal meeting at the Café des Phares on December 13, 1992. These 11am Sunday sessions soon became famous, with attendances of around 200. Sautet would set the theme for discussion — "the road to hell is paved with good intentions," say — and then pass around the cordless microphone. Although a highly charismatic and persuasive figure, he always insisted that his aim was "to keep dialogue going, not to direct it".

He called the movement he instigated "cafés for Socrates",

which was also the title of a book he wrote on the subject in 1993. This was philosophy for the agora, a return to the rudiments of reasoning, rather than high-flown discourse.

Predictably, the venture was not without controversy. Sautet was decried by the "specialists" and accused of using the Café des Phares as a shop window for his more profitable private sessions. In 1996 there were also worried reports that he had taken up an ambiguous position regarding the Holocaust. Such, perhaps, were the risks of open, public debate.

Before his death, Sautet was working on a series of books in which he conducted dialogues with classical philosophers on a given theme. After *Les Femmes*, he was about to publish a second volume simply entitled *Dieu*.

ROLAND BOOTH

Roland Gordon Booth, nutritionist, died on March 2 aged 88. He was born June 17, 1909.



ROLAND BOOTH was one of the pioneering nutritionists who helped to plan the British diet during the food shortages of the Second World War. But he was a scientist expert in many of the arts, especially theatre and opera, and his work in nutrition led naturally to a connoisseur's knowledge of food and wine.

Known as "Roland" to his family and close friends, and "Gordon" to a very wide circle of academic and business colleagues, he was brought up in Highworth, near Swindon, the son of a Congregational minister from Yorkshire and a Scottish mother.

He read agriculture at Reading University, which led to a doctorate at the adjacent National Institute for Research in Dairying. There he worked in the relatively new field of biochemistry, following a number of important nutritional discoveries of vitamins and other key food nutrients.

While Booth was at university, some of his other interests flourished, including jazz, playing the saxophone and baritone, choral singing, and alpine mountaineering.

On completing his doctorate, he began work with a Birmingham dairy company, formulating vitamin-enriched baby foods, the start of a long career in food processing. He also spent time in Hull setting up a laboratory to measure the amount of Vitamin D in cod liver oil (then a very arduous technique involving rat tests), and in St Albans, to which he was summoned at the outbreak of war to Cereals Research. There he undertook the programme to fortify British wheat flour so as to help ensure that Britain remained healthy during the privations of war.

His other memorable work during the war included analysing 3,300-year-old barley

from Tutankhamun's tomb. He was fascinated to find that the nutrients were identical to those he was working on in the 1940s.

While in Hull, through his interest in the theatre and opera, he met and married his wife, Nancy. They celebrated their diamond wedding in 1977. In St Albans they became pillars of the amateur opera society, of which Booth became life president.

After the war Booth was recruited by the Bovril company, which then included Marmite and Viofl. His work as chief chemist harnessed his enthusiasms for nutrition and food technology, and took him to some of the outposts of the beef extract industry in Brazil and Spain.

In the 1950s he was able to add animal nutrition to his responsibilities. He joined the Mars company, making canned petfoods in Melford, Mowbray, and soon became its technical director. He saw the company grow into the dominant domestic petfood company in Britain.

Booth revelled in the challenge of applying biochemistry and technology to

new food products. On retiring early from Pedigree Petfoods in 1962 he established a food technology consultancy. His wide range of assignments included work with natural colours from grape juice in New York State, to the design of a frozen french fries factory in Bosnia. (The potatoes were disease-free, but sadly the factory was not shell-proof). He also worked regularly in Italy, and helped to automate confectionery production in Spain.

Roland Booth, who affected flair and originality in his dress, could discourse with authority and style on music and musical instruments, nutrition, food technology, medicine and mountaineering. He gave an annual lecture on wine in St Albans. Into his eighties he was writing and editing books, ranging from food technology reference works to a handbook for the amateur operatic world. In 1966 he wrote his autobiography, *All Change*, which contains fascinating detail about rural life in Wiltshire in the early 20th century.

He is survived by his wife and their two daughters.

JOHN RICHARDSON

John Richardson, surgeon, died on March 1 aged 82. He was born on February 24, 1916.

JOHN RICHARDSON (inexplicably known as "Sam" in medical circles) was a surgeon whose deftness, delicacy and sureness of touch became legendary. He had such extraordinary skill, particularly in the fields of endocrine and abdominal surgery, that even his most eminent colleagues were known to drop into his theatre to watch him operate.

The son of a Loughborough GP, John Eric Richardson was

educated at Clifton, where he played rugby in the 1st XV. He went to the London Hospital in 1934 and there had a brilliant career, playing rugby for the hospital and winning the Andrew Clark Prize for medicine. After junior posts at the London, Poplar and Liverpool Children's Hospitals, he became one of the youngest ever Fellows of the Royal College of Surgeons.

He joined the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, and within three weeks was posted to the battleship *Prince of Wales*, just after she had hosted the signing of the Atlantic Charter by

Churchill and Roosevelt. He was fortunate to survive his early war experiences. The *Prince of Wales*'s next mission was to be her last. In October 1941, with the *Repulse*, she was dispatched to Singapore before the outbreak of war with Japan, in order, as Churchill optimistically put it, "to exercise that kind of vague menace which capital ships of the highest quality... can impose upon all hostile naval calculations".

On December 10, 1941, both were sunk by Japanese aircraft with the loss of nearly a thousand officers and men.

Richardson went on deck for the emergency treatment of the wounded, and when the great ship was sinking and the order came to abandon her, he was picked up by a destroyer and taken to Singapore.

He was seconded at once to an army unit for two months during the retreat in Malaya; he was fortunate to be evacuated three days before Singapore surrendered. He had yet another narrow escape a few months later when the ship he was on was torpedoed by a German submarine and sank with the loss of a third of her complement. Richardson was

rescued after 18 hours in an open boat, by an American merchant ship, which, although carrying a cargo of explosives, stopped for survivors, an act referred to in the idiom of the time as "very sporting". Although he had vivid memories of these events, he hardly ever spoke about them. Later he was appointed Consultant Surgeon to the Royal Navy.

Winning a Rockefeller travelling fellowship in 1947, Richardson spent a year at the Massachusetts General Hospital before returning to the London Hospital as senior lecturer and consultant in the newly formed surgical unit.

For his juniors this was a golden time; he sparked with ideas and brought an entirely new approach to the then ill-understood mystery of electrolyte imbalance, which could be so lethal after major surgery. He could not escape from his growing reputation as a surgical craftsman, and was increasingly in demand at the hospitals to which he was

quickly appointed, the Prince of Wales, Tottenham, the Royal Air Force, the King Edward VII Hospital for Officers. But his loyalty to the London Hospital never wavered.

To a generation of younger surgeons he was a model, and his surgical methods were widely imitated.

He married Elizabeth Webster in 1943, when she was serving as a Wren. She died in 1991, and in 1994 he married Bettine Long, who survives him, together with a son and daughter of his first marriage.

PERSONAL COLUMN

FOR SALE

A BIRTHDAY Coming Up? Give an original gift. **THE TRIMMER** - 1991-1996 other sizes available. Ready for presentation. **Call 0171 722 3434**

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

PERSONAL & Corporate. All areas. Visa/Passport, flight, insurance, car hire, etc. **Call 0171 722 3434**

WINTER SPORTS

DEPART ANY DAY, weekend skiing & snowboard hire. **Call 0171 722 3434**

MIDWEEK RENDEZVOUS

FLIGHT PARTNERS National Driving Agency. **Call 0171 722 3434**

FLATSHARE

BALMAIN room available in large flat. **Call 0171 722 3434**

FLATMATES

FLATMATE London's Southwest (near 1970) **Call 0171 722 3434**

FLATMATE

FLATMATE Room available in recently built flat. **Call 0171 722 3434**

SITUATIONS WANTED

EX MBT police officer (retired) seeking a driving instructor. **Call 0171 722 3434**

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

FLIGHTWISE

FLIGHTWISE 1991-1996 other sizes available. Ready for presentation. **Call 0171 722 3434**

FLIGHTWISE

FLIGHTWISE 1991-1996 other sizes available. Ready for presentation. **Call 0171 722 3434**

FLIGHTWISE

FLIGHTWISE 1991-1996 other sizes available. Ready for presentation. **Call 0171 722 3434**

FLIGHTWISE

FLIGHTWISE 1991-1996 other sizes available. Ready for presentation. **Call 0171 722 3434**

FLIGHTWISE

FLIGHTWISE 1991-1996 other sizes available. Ready for presentation. **Call 0171 722 3434**

FLIGHTWISE

FLIGHTWISE 1991-1996 other sizes available. Ready for presentation. **Call 0171 722 3434**

FLIGHTWISE

FLIGHTWISE 1991-1996 other sizes available. Ready for presentation. **Call 0171 722 3434**

FLIGHTWISE

FLIGHTWISE 1991-1996 other sizes available. Ready for presentation. **Call 0171 722 3434**

FLIGHTWISE

FLIGHTWISE

FLIGHTWISE 1991-1996 other sizes available. Ready for presentation. **Call 0171 722 3434**

FLIGHTWISE

FLIGHTWISE 1991-1996 other sizes available. Ready for presentation. **Call 0171 722 3434**

FLIGHTWISE

FLIGHTWISE 1991-1996 other sizes available. Ready for presentation. **Call 0171 722 3434**

FLIGHTWISE

FLIGHTWISE 1991-1996 other sizes available. Ready for presentation. **Call 0171 722 3434**

FLIGHTWISE

FLIGHTWISE 1991-1996 other sizes available. Ready for presentation. **Call 0171 722 3434**

FLIGHTWISE

FLIGHTWISE 1991-1996 other sizes available. Ready for presentation. **Call 0171 722 3434**

FLIGHTWISE

FLIGHTWISE 1991-1996 other sizes available. Ready for presentation. **Call 0171 722 3434**

FLIGHTWISE

FLIGHTWISE 1991-1996 other sizes available. Ready for presentation. **Call 0171 722 3434**

FLIGHTWISE

FLIGHTWISE

FLIGHTWISE 1991-1996 other sizes available. Ready for presentation. **Call 0171 722 3434**

FLIGHTWISE

FLIGHTWISE 1991-1996 other sizes available. Ready for presentation. **Call 0171 722 3434**

FLIGHTWISE

FLIGHTWISE 1991-1996 other sizes available. Ready for presentation. **Call 0171 722 3434**

FLIGHTWISE

FLIGHTWISE 1991-1996 other sizes available. Ready for presentation. **Call 0171 722 3434**

FLIGHTWISE

FLIGHTWISE 1991-1996 other sizes available. Ready for presentation. **Call 0171 722 3434**

FLIGHTWISE

FLIGHTWISE 1991-1996 other sizes available. Ready for presentation. **Call 0171 722 3434**

FLIGHTWISE

FLIGHTWISE 1991-1996 other sizes available. Ready for presentation. **Call 0171 722 3434**

FLIGHTWISE

FLIGHTWISE 1991-1996 other sizes available. Ready for presentation. **Call 0171 722 3434**

FLIGHTWISE

FLIGHTWISE

FLIGHTWISE 1991-1996 other sizes available. Ready for presentation. **Call 0171 722 3434**

FLIGHTWISE

FLIGHTWISE 1991-1996 other sizes available. Ready for presentation. **Call 0171 722 3434**

FLIGHTWISE

FLIGHTWISE 1991-1996 other sizes available. Ready for presentation. **Call 0171 722 3434**

FLIGHTWISE

FLIGHTWISE 1991-1996 other sizes available. Ready for presentation. **Call 0171 722 3434**

FLIGHTWISE

FLIGHTWISE 1991-1996 other sizes available. Ready for presentation. **Call 0171 722 3434**

FLIGHTWISE

FLIGHTWISE 1991-1996 other sizes available. Ready for presentation. **Call 0171 722 3434**

FLIGHTWISE

FLIGHTWISE 1991-1996 other sizes available. Ready for presentation. **Call 0171 722 3434**

FLIGHTWISE

FLIGHTWISE 1991-1996 other sizes available. Ready for presentation. **Call 0171 722 3434**

FLIGHTWISE

FLIGHTWISE

FLIGHTWISE 1991-1996 other sizes available. Ready for presentation. **Call 0171 722 3434**

FLIGHTWISE

FLIGHTWISE 1991-1996 other sizes available. Ready for presentation. **Call 0171 722 3434**

FLIGHTWISE

FLIGHTWISE 1991-1996 other sizes available. Ready for presentation. **Call 0171 722 3434**

FLIGHTWISE

FLIGHTWISE 1991-1996 other sizes available. Ready for presentation. **Call 0171 722 3434**

FLIGHTWISE

FLIGHTWISE 1991-1996 other sizes available. Ready for presentation. **Call 0171 722 3434**

FLIGHTWISE

FLIGHTWISE 1991-1996 other sizes available. Ready for presentation. **Call 0171 722 3434**

FLIGHTWISE

FLIGHTWISE 1991-1996 other sizes available. Ready for presentation. **Call 0171 722 3434**

FLIGHTWISE

FLIGHTWISE 1991-1996 other sizes available. Ready for presentation. **Call 0171 722 3434**

FLIGHTWISE

FLIGHTWISE

FLIGHTWISE 1991-1996 other sizes available. Ready for presentation. **Call 0171 722 3434**

FLIGHTWISE

FLIGHTWISE 1991-1996 other sizes available. Ready for presentation. **Call 0171 722 3434**

FLIGHTWISE

FLIGHTWISE 1991-1996 other sizes available. Ready for presentation. **Call 0171 722 3434**

FLIGHTWISE

FLIGHTWISE 1991-1996 other sizes available. Ready for presentation. **Call 0171 722 3434**

FLIGHTWISE

FLIGHTWISE 1991-1996 other sizes available. Ready for presentation. **Call 0171 722 3434**

FLIGHTWISE

FLIGHTWISE 1991-1996 other sizes available. Ready for presentation. **Call 0171 722 3434**

FLIGHTWISE

FLIGHTWISE 1991-1996 other sizes available. Ready for presentation. **Call**

INSIDE
SECTION
2
TODAY



WATERSHED
Japan seeks
to wipe away
financial tears
PAGE 27



ARTS
Dream comes true
for film director
Gillian Armstrong
PAGES 33-35



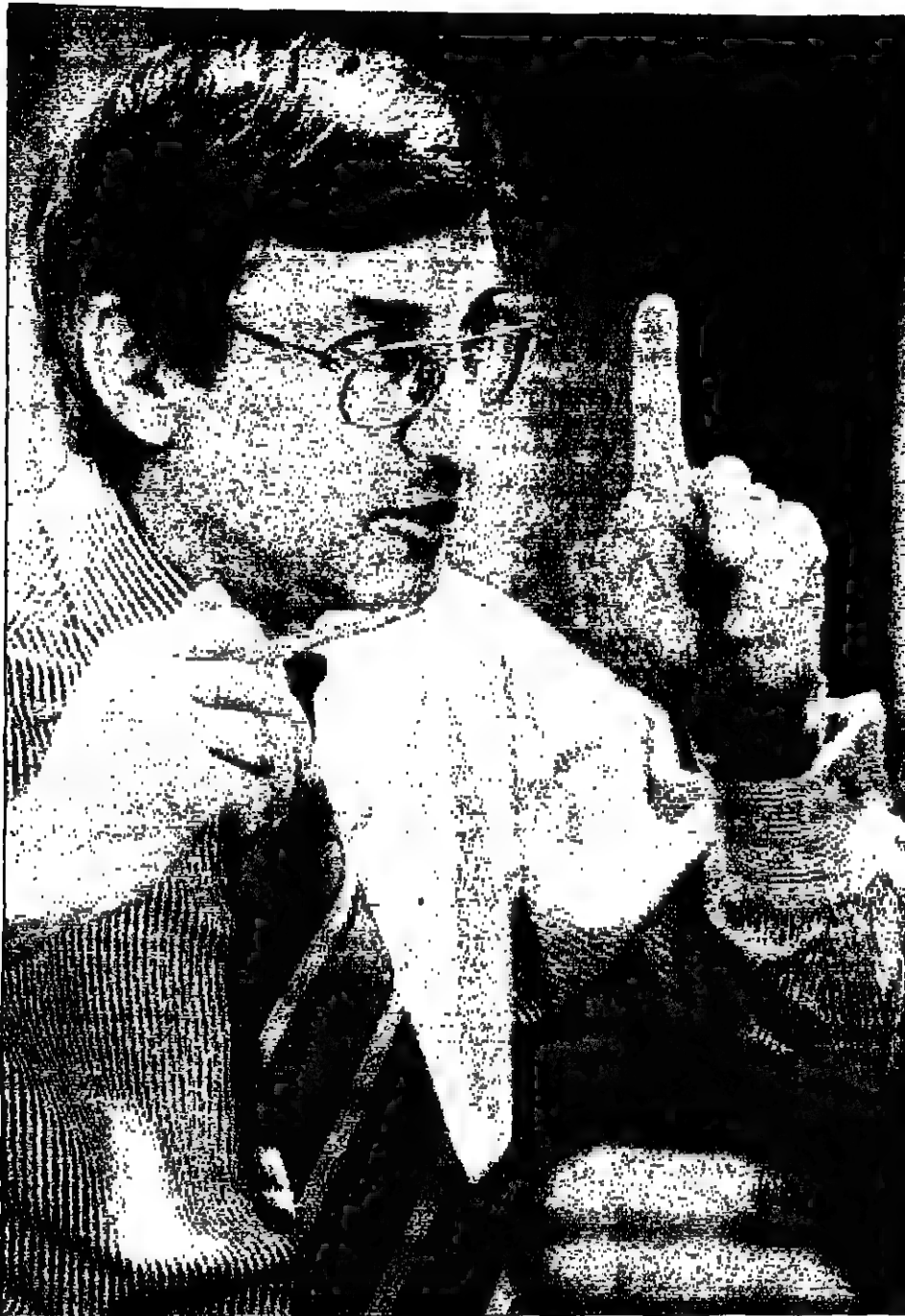
SPORT
Catt laps up chance
to show off
skills on wing
PAGES 39-44

**TELEVISION
AND
RADIO**
PAGES
43, 43

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

WEDNESDAY APRIL 1 1998

Glaxo Wellcome employees hold £1bn in share options



Sir Richard Sykes was unable to agree with his opposite number at SmithKline Beecham

GLAXO WELLCOME, the pharmaceutical group, has put in place share option schemes for its employees worth nearly £1 billion. These plans would have paid out about £1.4 billion had the merger with SmithKline Beecham proceeded.

About 20,000 Glaxo Wellcome executives are beneficiaries of group schemes and were in line to make an overnight profit of £70,000 each from the deal. Many employees have already taken advantage of the high price of the group's shares, exercising options last year that reaped a paper profit of £270 million.

The largest windfalls from the options plan would have gone to senior directors — with James Nield, the research and development director, being the largest potential beneficiary, at about £2.66 million.

The directors are also entitled to shares under the long-term incentive plan, which potentially could have been worth £17 million.

The option schemes give employees rights to buy Glaxo Wellcome shares at prices ranging from 25p each to £12.75 each at various points stretching over the next nine years. Last night Glaxo Wellcome shares stood at £16.07, having reached a high of £19.83 during merger talks with SB.

The massive cost of the various schemes, which give employees options over 114 million shares — is understood to have been a material factor in the negotiations with SB.

The failure of the deal has been blamed on the inability of the senior executives — Sir Richard Sykes, chairman of Glaxo Wellcome, and Jan Leschly, chief executive of SB

By JASON NISSE
— to agree on the allocation of the top jobs.

However, it is understood that advisers working for Glaxo Wellcome gave warning that a merger could have crystallised all the share options in the schemes, bringing a bonanza for Glaxo Wellcome executives worth £1.4 billion.

When Glaxo took over Wellcome three years ago, the share option schemes were triggered but many staff chose to roll over their entitlement into the larger company, and are now in line for an even bigger payout.

Although the triggering of the share options would not have been a cash cost for Glaxo Wellcome, it would have diluted the share of the new group available to Glaxo Wellcome shareholders.

Leading investors are angry about the failure of the deal to go through and Glaxo Wellcome has been meeting institutional shareholders to try and diffuse a possible row

at the annual shareholders' meeting next month. Institutions have questioned whether the non-executive directors — led by Sir Roger Hurn, the deputy chairman — could have done more to force through a £100 billion merger that most in the City consider to be in the interests of shareholders.

Shareholder dissatisfaction has been targeted at SB, after revelations about the £60 million pay and options package accumulated by Mr Leschly.

The SB chief executive would have been extremely expensive to dismiss in the event of a merger with Glaxo Wellcome. His contract allows for a pay-off equal to three years' salary if he left after a change of control. On the basis of his package in 1997, this would have entitled Mr Leschly, a former Davis Cup tennis star, to a pay-off in the region of £7 million.

Commentary, page 25



Institutions have questioned the role of Sir Roger Hurn

Oil price drops in face of output pact

By CARL MORTSHED

OIL markets yesterday poured scorn on Opec's surprise agreement to cut output by pushing down prices around the world. The oil cartel's gleeful securing agreement to production cuts from non-Opec producers such as Mexico and Norway, turned to gloom as Brent blend for May delivery fell 50 cents to \$14.27.

Norway's decision on Monday to cut production by 100,000 barrels per day (bpd) brought the pact to 1.5 million barrels. Energetic diplomacy by Mexico helped to bring the second biggest oil exporter into an agreement that will reduce world output by 2 per cent. Norway's decision caused surprise in Western oil markets, which saw little reason for the wealthy country to give up market share. Norway exports 3.3 million bpd but, unlike Venezuela and Iran, is not under financial pressure.

Norway's move could be a diplomatic ploy, securing favours from Opec members with vast oil reserves. Peter Rogins of Cambridge Energy Research Associates pointed out that Norway has an important oil service industry with companies such as Statoil and Kvaerner competing for contracts in the developing world.

Even assuming that Opec sticks to its guns, oil traders see a glut emerging in the summer after weak winter consumption and a possible doubling of Iraqi output. The Centre for Global Energy Studies forecasts that demand will undershoot Opec supply by 1 million barrels. Increased Iraqi oil for food exports could add another million barrels at current prices.

Commentary, page 25

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES		
FTSE 100	5932.2	(+20.3)
Yield	2.76%	
FTSE All share	2781.66	(+6.87)
Nikkei	16827.17	(+264.13)
Dow Jones	8776.79	(+94.27)
S&P Composite	1107.17	(+13.62)
US RATE		
Federal Funds	5%	(5.50%)
Long Bond	102 1/8	(101 1/2)
Yield	5.94%	(5.98%)
LONDON MONEY		
3-mth Interbank	7 1/8	(7 1/8)
Libor 6m	10 1/4	(10 1/4)
Libor 12m	10 3/4	(10 3/4)
STERLING		
New York	1.6740	(1.6773)
London	1.6746	(1.6774)
Frankfurt	3.0088	(3.0043)
FF	10.2750	(10.2690)
SP	2.5228	(2.5456)
Yen	222.30	(221.64)
Index	108.8	(108.7)
DOLLAR		
London	1.6488	(1.6481)
DM	6.1979	(6.1980)
FF	1.6248	(1.6230)
Yen	133.22	(131.58)
Index	110.7	(110.5)
Tokyo close Yen 133.37		
BRENT OIL		
Brent 15-day (Jun)	814.75	(815.08)
LONDON OIL		
London close	8300.89	(8308.55)
* denotes midday trading price		

Failure

United Assurance has more than doubled its provision for mis-selling personal pensions and has so far failed in its search for a new chief executive.
Page 24, Tempus 26

Disappointment

LucasVarity still wants to use the bulk of its £1 billion war chest to buy the brakes division of ITT, despite disappointing those who expected news of a major acquisition.
Page 25, Tempus 26

Flight opposes GFH stake sale

By RICHARD MILES, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

HOWARD FLIGHT, co-founder of Guinness Flight Hambro, is to challenge the proposed sale of Guinness Mahon's stake in the fund management business to Investec, the South African banking group.

Directors of Guinness Flight Hambro, who own 12 per cent of the company as well as holding "super-options", have appointed DLJ Phoenix, the US investment bank, to find a new owner for the Guinness Mahon stake and the 44 per cent owned by the Hambros Group.

Mr Flight said yesterday he felt he had been "deceived" by the Bank of Yokohama (BoY), the Japanese owner of Guinness Mahon. He claimed that BoY pledged to sell the 44 per cent stake in Guinness Flight Hambro separately.

Mr Flight, also Conserva-

tive MP for Arundel & South Downs, said: "BoY have sold the stock without advising us directly of the fact. We have nothing against Investec, but we expect there are more appropriate shareholders."

He also questioned the role of SBC Warburg Dillon Read, the investment bank that advised BoY. Investec hopes to complete the £90 million purchase within one week.

Directors of Guinness Flight Hambro were scheduled to meet with Investec executives last night to negotiate a "common-sense" solution. Stephen Koseff, group chief executive of Investec, said he would attempt to reassure Mr Flight and his colleagues about the situation.

Investec owns several UK operations, including Carr Sheppard, the stockbroker, and Clive, the discount house.

Pound rises on evidence from Brown

THE pound is expected to test new highs against the German mark after Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, said he would take no action to undermine the strength of sterling (Janet Bush writes).

Yesterday the pound rose above DM3.10, trading at DM3.1085 mid-morning, its highest since July 1989. The sterling index rose to 109.2.

Exporters wanted Mr Brown to use his appearance before the Treasury Select Committee to reduce the pound's value. He said he understood exporters' fears but it would be wrong to be "diverted in our long-term objectives of creating high levels of growth and employment... by short-term pressures, which if we gave in to them would merely lead to a return to stop-go policies."

Brown's long view, page 2
Anatole Kaletsky, page 18

Ladbroke deal goes to MMC

By DOMINIC WALSH

LADBROKE GROUP is expected to be forced to dispose of up to 100 betting shops in order to win regulatory approval for its £363 million takeover of Coral.

Industry observers believe yesterday's decision by the President of the Board of Trade to refer the matter to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission is unlikely to block the deal.

Margaret Beckett, in accordance with the advice of Office of Fair Trading, has asked the MMC to submit a report by July 7, arguing the acquisition "raises competition concerns in relation to the off-course betting market". She is thought to be concerned at the resultant 36 per cent market share.

Ladbroke, which announced the deal on New Year's Day, had hoped to avoid a referral by arranging

to sell on 133 shops to the Tote, thereby ensuring the new 2,600-strong chain kept to the 2,500-shop quarter-mile rule that has governed UK betting shops since 1989.

Peter George, chief executive, expressed disappointment at the decision, arguing the quarter-mile rule had "stood the test of time". He said: "We see no reason why the MMC should come to a materially different conclusion."

A decision to block the deal completely would be a disaster for Ladbroke, as the acquisition from Bass was unconditional. One analyst said: "Ladbroke won't be too upset if it has to sell another 100 shops, but if it were blocked it would be a forced seller, putting it in a very weak bargaining position."

Commentary, page 25

Computacenter pair to get £235m each

By CHRIS AYRES



Mike Norris, left, and Tony Conophy, finance director

PHILIP HULME and Peter Ogden, the two founders of Computacenter who met at Harvard Business School in the 1970s, will be worth up to £235 million each when they float their computer services company in May.

The executives each hold stakes of about 26 per cent in the company, which analysts have valued at between £800 million and £900 million.

However, many in the City believe that Computacenter, the fourth largest private company in the UK, could be worth more than £1 billion. Mr Hulme, 49, and Mr Ogden, 50, will also create more than a

dozen millionaires among staff when Computacenter comes to the market. About 18 per cent of the company is owned by employees.

Mr Hulme was a management consultant before setting up the company with Mr Ogden in 1981. Mr Ogden held senior positions at Merrill Lynch and Morgan Stanley before joining Computacenter full time in 1987. He is now a non-executive director, and also holds part-time directorships at Abbey National and Anglo & Overseas Trust.

The two men will sell only a small proportion of their shares when the company

floats. Not much new funding is expected to be raised when the company comes to the market because its borrowings are modest. The rest of Computacenter is owned by venture capitalists and institutions, including Apax Partners and Foreign & Colonial.

Mike Norris, chief executive, said: "We think that the time is right to float, we're not desperate. Liquidity will be required at some time."

Computacenter also revealed that its pre-tax profits had risen 38 per cent last year from £34 million to £47 million on sales of £1.1 billion, up 28 per cent from £882 million.

James Capel welcomes Private Clients.

We are one of the leading investment managers for private clients.

Our investment strategy is formulated at the highest level but your portfolio is personalised to your own unique needs, not pooled with thousands of others.

As well as tailor-made portfolios, we offer something more. Your own portfolio manager with whom you can meet or talk any time of day. Together with the professionalism you would expect from a member of the HSBC Group, one of the leading banking and financial services organisations in the world.

The Private Client Specialist.



James Capel Investment Management

Member HSBC Group

For more information on how we manage portfolios of £200,000 or more, please call Simon Corbett or Nandita Khanna on 0171 336 9195, fax them on 0171 283 3187 or write to them at the address below.

6 Bevis Marks, London EC3A 7JQ

James Capel Investment Management is a trading name of HSBC Investment Bank plc

Registered office: 10 Queen Street Place, London EC4R 1BL

Regulated by SFA and a member of the London Stock Exchange

Hepworth overhaul cuts costs

Hepworth, the heating products and building materials company, said a radical overhaul of its businesses, which gave rise to a net exceptional charge of £68.9 million, had significantly reduced costs and created a more competitive business.

The company, which sold its refractories division during the course of a six-month review ordered by new chief executive Jean-François Chêne, yesterday reported pre-tax losses of £11.7 million for 1997, against profits of £67.6 million in 1996. Profits from continuing businesses fell to £56 million from £62 million.

Adjusted earnings fell to 15.4p a share from 17.6p. The total dividend is cut to 9p a share from 14.85p, with a 6p final. The shares fell 5p to 264p yesterday.

Tempus, page 26

Menzies deal

John Menzies, which is selling its newsgroups to concentrate on its news distribution business, is to form a 50-50 joint venture with Lufthansa Airport and Ground Services, named London Cargo Centre, to acquire and operate Lufthansa's cargo terminal at Heathrow. The terminal provides handling services for Lufthansa, Cathay Pacific, Thai Airways and South African Airways.

Oxford grows

Acquisitions have provided a platform for growth for Oxford Molecular, pushing the drug research company into the black for the first time. The company reported 1997 pre-tax profits of £256,000, compared with losses of £184 million in 1996. Earnings were 0.2p a share (3.3p loss). Again, there is no dividend.

Pressac blow

Shares in Pressac, the electrical equipment group, dived from 330p to 299p yesterday after the company reported a rise in pre-tax profits of 54 per cent to £4.5 million, a rise in earnings of 10 per cent to 5.18p and an increase in the half-year dividend of 10 per cent to 1.21p.

B2 rebrand

7-Eleven, the convenience stores chain, is to disappear from the high street next month after Budgens, its new owner, rebrands it B2. The new name will make its first appearance in Pimlico, London, and spread across the country by the end of next year.

United Assurance provision for mis-selling rises to £170m

By MARIANNE CURPHEY
INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

UNITED ASSURANCE yesterday said it had more than doubled its provision for mis-selling personal pensions and had so far failed in its search for a new chief executive.

The provision has been increased from £71 million at the end of 1996 to £170.6 million. This figure includes new "phase 2" mis-selling cases, which have to be completed by the end of this month.

Profits, which were in line with expectations, were boosted

by a £55 million transfer from the shareholders' long-term funds. This surplus, known as orphan assets, will yield a 6.6 per cent annual investment return after an agreement reached with the Department of Trade and Industry.

Analysts expressed concern that a replacement had not yet been found for George Mack, who resigned last November and left the group in January. One said: "This leaves United Assurance in a very vulnerable position." But some said it

had a clear strategy and was financially strong enough to survive without an immediate appointment.

Bill McDonald, group finance director, said no deadline had been set for finding a new candidate for the job. He said: "It is important to get the right person. If that takes longer, so be it. It is an attractive job and I am confident that we will find a suitable candidate."

Asked whether an internal candidate might fit the bill, he said the "board is looking at all possibilities".

Operating profit before tax and exceptional items on continuing operations increased for the full year from £199 million in 1996 to £305 million last year. This included an investment return of £149.5 million on shareholders' retained capital up from £27.5 million the previous year. The company said the figure was before exceptional items.

The management also announced that it had opened talks with the Government over the possible merger of the two life funds. Some analysts believe that if the Government

agrees to the merger, the company will benefit from efficiencies and cost savings. However, the company said the matter was unlikely to be resolved before the end of the year.

The company has cleared 95 per cent of its 3,500 most urgent cases and has cleared or made offers in 75 per cent of its priority two and three cases.

The total dividend was lifted 16.7 per cent to 21p and earnings per share before exceptional items were 59.7p (33p).

Tempus, page 26

Trio plan joint bid for radio licence

By CHRIS AYRES

TALK RADIO is set to join forces with Classic FM and Chris Evans's Ginger Group later this week to bid for a national digital radio licence. It has already been revealed that Classic FM, owned by GWR, the commercial radio group, and Ginger Group will jointly bid for the licence through a consortium named Digital One. However, Talk Radio has not yet officially confirmed its involvement.

The Radio Authority last week invited companies to apply for the national digital licence, which will give the winner 12 years to establish a rival digital service to the BBC. The addition of Talk Radio to the Digital One consortium will make it much harder for rival media groups such as Capital and Emap to compete — one insider described it as "a pretty powerful combination".

The licence will allow the consortium to broadcast about seven channels, plus a data channel. Sources close to the consortium say it is considering launching a real-time stock market data service.

Listeners will have to buy new radios to receive digital broadcasts.

The integration of Talk Radio into the consortium emerged yesterday as GWR revealed that profits growth at Classic FM had not been as strong as expected during the second half of its financial year. Its yearly results will be published in June.

Shares in GWR fell 15p to 177p, compared with a recent high of 230p last year. Classic FM only recently broke into operating profit, which reached £1.8 million at GWR's half year. GWR said Classic FM's revenues have recovered.



Tim Eggar, left, Tony Craven Walker and Liz Airey, finance director, yesterday

Monument calls for cash

By CARL MORTIMER

MONUMENT OIL & Gas, the exploration company of which Tim Eggar, the former Energy Minister, is chief executive, intends to raise £100 million in a rights issue.

News of the proposed cash call, the terms of which have yet to be decided, surprised the stock market, causing the share price to fall 5p to 61p.

Only last year, Monument completed a complex capital restructuring, repaying more

than £30 million to shareholders. The oil company said it was deliberately choosing to raise cash at the oil market's nadir. Tony Craven Walker, chairman, said: "The industry is about to enter a period of restructuring. Asset prices have been too expensive and people will begin to take a more realistic view of how the world looks."

He said the money was needed to give Monument the

equity base on which to raise debt finance for expansion. Monument's four-year investment plan could involve expenditure of up to £600 million.

News of the cash call accompanied an announcement of a 60 per cent rise in Monument's net profit for 1997 to £19.65 million. Oil and gas output rose by 50 per cent, mainly due to a surge in production from

Liverpool Bay.

TUC puts case for unions to Beckett

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE TUC will today resume its battle for full union recognition in a meeting with Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade.

A delegation will lobby for key demands from the Confederation of British Industry to be rejected as the Government prepares its White Paper on fairness at work.

John Monks, General Secretary of the TUC, said yesterday that the main rift in talks with the Government over recognition were voting turn out and the size of companies to be covered by legislation. Mr Monks was speaking after a special TUC executive meeting that followed talks on Monday with the Prime Minister. He said the CBI's plans for minimum turn out meant that non-votes would be more damaging than no votes to the chances of a ballot being won.

Mr Monks said there should be no exclusion of small firms from the new law, adding: "Many of the worst employment conditions are in small firms." He said that if companies employing fewer than 50 people were exempt from recognition eight million workers would lose out.

With the White Paper only weeks away, Mr Monks conceded that most of the main issues were unresolved. Some sources believe publication of the paper may slip to May but Mr Monks believed it was on course for this month.

On a NOP poll, published today, of 100 companies by People in Business, the management consultancy, found that most employers felt their relations with trade unions were unlikely to be affected by compulsory recognition of unions or by European Union legislation.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

BCCI liquidators win High Court order

THE liquidators of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) have obtained a High Court order to the value of \$10 million (£6 million) against Moizul Haque, a former BCCI employee now fugitive in Pakistan. Mr Haque was responsible for handling the accounts of the Virani Group, formerly chaired by Nazim Virani, who was jailed for two and a half years in 1995 for his part in the BCCI fraud.

The judgment enables the liquidators to seize Mr Haque's pension, which is currently frozen, and paves the way for the possible seizure of assets in other jurisdictions. Payments were made — including \$3.6 million to prop up BCCI Canada — using an offshore company and a Swiss bank. False documents were created in the BCCI books in the name of the Virani company. An arrest warrant for Mr Haque was issued by the Serious Fraud Office in April 1992, nine months after BCCI was shut down by the Bank of England with losses of \$10 billion.

PGA stake for ClubCorp

CLUBCORP, the US golf club company that owns or manages 220 golf clubs worldwide, yesterday paid £6.5 million for the 22.9 per cent stake in PGA European Tour Courses controlled by Richard Thompson, who is stepping down as chairman of PGA. Industry sources believe that ClubCorp will raise its stake to 29.9 per cent, and may eventually launch an outright takeover bid. PGA saw a drop in 1997 pre-tax profits to £1.2 million (£2.8 million). There is no final dividend (0.5p).

Chiroscience-Zeneca deal

CHIROSCIENCE, the drug development company, has given Zeneca the exclusive rights to market its new anaesthetic, Chirocaine. Shares in Chiroscience rose 50p to 323p. Zeneca has also bought a £15 million stake at £4.25 a share, giving it a 3.2 per cent stake in the company. The agreement gives Zeneca worldwide rights to Chirocaine, including Japan. Chiroscience will register Chirocaine in Europe and the US, after which Zeneca will market it.

FirstGroup HK contract

FIRSTGROUP, Britain's largest bus operator, has beaten rival Stagecoach for control of Hong Kong's main private bus company. It will own 26 per cent of New World First, a joint venture with a new Hong Kong company, and will share the £80 million a year of revenue that the service is expected to collect. It intends to invest £42 million in restoring the network, and operate 88 routes with 700 buses from September. Shares of FirstGroup rose 11p to a fresh high of 361p.

Dairy group in the red

RESTRUCTURING costs of £160 million (£129 million), have sent Avonmore Waterford, the Irish dairy and foods group, plunging to a pre-tax loss of £1.17 million, compared with a profit of £1.56 million the previous year. Pat O'Neill, managing director, predicted further consolidation in the dairy industry. Avonmore Waterford is the largest supplier of cheddar in Britain. At the operating level, profits rose 9 per cent to £1.92 million and the dividend rises 9 per cent to 4.9p.

Telemetrix warning

TELEMETRIX, the troubled electronic components company, yesterday gave warning that its 57 per cent owned US subsidiary, GTI Corporation, would make substantially heavier losses in the first quarter than its fourth quarter losses of \$16 million (£958,000). GTI's first quarter revenues will also be significantly lower because of "an overall softening in demand". Shares in Telemetrix fell 4p to 45p, compared with nearly 200p four years ago.

Rathbone advances 36%

RATHBONE BROTHERS, the fund managers, raised pre-tax profits by 36 per cent to £13 million in the year to December 31 on turnover up from £35.8 million to £50.5 million. Earnings after exceptional items rose from 24.8p to 24.95p out of which the total dividend rises 22 per cent to 14p after payment of a 9.0p final. The company took an exceptional charge of £2.3 million to cover the cost of an office move. Mickey Ingall, chairman, said: "We continue to seek further acquisitions."

Cornwell Parker rises

CORNWELL PARKER, the furnishings and fabrics company, is increasing the interim dividend to 1.3p a share from 1p after reporting an 8.5 per cent increase in underlying pre-tax profits to £3.31 million in the six months to January 31. Adjusted earnings rose 13 per cent to 5.3p a share. The company, which has concluded a wide-ranging restructuring, said furniture sales rose 3 per cent but fabric sales were virtually unchanged at £21.6 million (£21.7 million).

Johnson Matthey deal

JOHNSON MATTHEY, the metals and electronic materials group, has sold its 87.6 per cent interest in Otavi Mines, the German perlite processing and minerals processing and trading operation, to Silver & Baryte, of Greece. Net proceeds from the sale of the business, part of Cookson Matthey Ceramics, were £17 million. Perlite is insulating material used in the construction industry. Johnson Matthey recently acquired 100 per cent of Cookson Matthey Ceramics.

Fenner sells division

FENNER, the engineering company, is raising £50 million with the sale of its power transmission division to FPT Group, a buy-in company backed by Morgan Grenfell Development Capital. In the year to August 31, 1997, the division contributed operating profits of £6.5 million on sales of £102.5 million, accounting for almost 39 per cent of total group turnover. After the disposal Fenner will focus on advanced engineering products, conveyor belting and fluid power.

How to work
as efficiently
out of
the office...

35m

...as in it.

Freefone 0800 800 800
for our free guide,
or visit our web site at
www.business.bt.com/mobility

4.3m

BT

Why not change the way we work?

Save optimistic on petrol market

By KATHY LIPARI

SAVE GROUP, the petrol retailer, has predicted an upturn in fortunes as the forecast price war subsides.

James Frost, chairman, yesterday admitted he had misjudged the market in 1997 but was optimistic lower crude prices and improving margins would deliver improved results in 1998.

The company reported a 13 per cent decline in pre-tax profits to £9 million in 1997 but an exceptional loss of £1.7 million extended the decline to 30 per cent with profits before tax of £7.3 million.

A price war started by the Esso Price Watch campaign in 1995 drastically reduced profits within the industry and caused the closure of about

2,700 sites, including 795 in 1997, Save said.

Mr Frost conceded the recent upturn could be "another false dawn" but said it could be the start of a sustained period of growth with margins at their highest levels in over two years and the company "fully competitive" for the first time during this period.

The company has signed a deal with Postal Facilities to install a post box at all of its 411 sites over the next two years in a bid to encourage more customers.

Earnings fell 25 per cent to 9.7p a share but a total dividend is maintained at 7.1p, with a 3.9p final.

Tempus, page 26

British Energy eliminates debt

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH ENERGY, the nuclear power company, is next month expected to reveal that it is debt free less than two years after it was privatised with net borrowings of £700 million.

The company has also become the country's largest generator, demoting National Power into second place.

Elimination of debt, to be confirmed at the time of the company's full-year results, will raise hopes of British Energy returning cash to investors, possibly by way of a share buy-back.

British Energy was 44 per cent geared when it floated two years ago with a value of £1.4 billion.

But strong cash generation

has enabled the company to repay debts more quickly than expected. The shares plunged on the first day of trading but they now trade at 524p, against the fully paid flotation price of 198p. British Energy's financial year ended yesterday.

Earlier this year National Power said electricity output for the year to March 31 would not exceed 60 terawatts (60 million million watts). By the end of February British Energy's output stood at 60.88 terawatts with March figures still to be added to complete the full year.

Next month the National Audit Office is expected to broadly support the sale of British Energy.

Name change and election dull spot muffles Chime

By JON ASHWORTH

CHIME Communications, the media group headed by Sir Tim Bell, turned in a flat set of profits last year, in the wake of a disruptive change of name, and a debilitating general election.

Chime, whose public relations arm, Lowe Bell, lost the right to use the Lowe name, and is now called Bell Pottinger, increased turnover to £42.4 million (£33.7 million) in the year to December 31. The figures include two months' contribution from HHCL, the advertising group. However, operating

margins dipped slightly to 13 per cent (13.5 per cent) and pre-tax profits were only slightly ahead at £3.8 million (£3.7 million). Earnings per share slipped to 3.8p (4.5p). Sharply increased cash balances of £6.7 million (£2.6 million) helped Chime to squeeze an extra £118,000 in investment income towards profits.

Sir Tim said a "period of inactivity" around the election had affected margin levels and revenue per employee. A final dividend of 1.25p a share (1.5p) makes a total of 1.9p (1.7p) for the year.



Sir Tim: margins squeezed

Rugby restructure reaps rich rewards

By KATHY LIPARI

THE restructuring programme of Rugby Group, the building materials company, is paying off, the group said yesterday, after reporting a better than expected 20 per cent increase in profits to £77 million before tax and exceptional items in 1997.

Peter Johnson, chief executive, said the group was on track to meet its cost saving targets of £15 million in its UK joinery business and was saving around \$15 million (£9 million) per annum in its US distribution businesses.

Turnover fell 11 per cent to £1.07 billion in 1997 after the

sale of the metal products business.

Adjusted earnings were 8.5p a share, up from 6.8p. A final dividend of 2.35p lifts the total 11 per cent to 4p.

Mr Johnson said capital expenditure would be increased to about £90 million this year and acquisitions were being considered in emerging markets globally, particularly within the lime and cement markets.

He said the company was hoping to make at least one more "substantial move within the lime and cement markets by the end of this year."

TOURIST RATES		
	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.63	2.45
Austria Sch	22.75	21.08
Belgium Fr	66.05	62.00
Canada C	2.507	2.519
Cyprus Cyp£	0.944	0.872
Denmark Kr	12.36	11.49
Finland Mk	6.94	6.81
France F	10.83	10.05
Germany Dm	3.28	3.02
Greece Dr	363	336
Hong Kong \$	13.81	12.61
Iceland Is	134	114
Ireland P	1.26	1.20
Israel Shk	6.42	6.17
Italy Lira	3228	2889
Japan Yen	224.18	204.02
Malta	0.701	0.642
Netherlands Gld	3.676	3.381
New Zealand \$	3.17	2.98
Norway Kr	13.75	12.42
Portugal Esc	322.23	307.20
S. Africa Rd	17.13	16.17
Spain Ptas	166.38	155.25
Sweden Kr	14.19	13.03
Switzerland Fr	2.70	2.49
Turkey Lira	111225	351300
USA \$	1.782	1.639

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

COMMENTARY

by our City Editor

And suddenly Joe Public,
24 kids, Acacia Avenue,
becomes his old self again.

Sharan

Industry must seek sterling's silver lining

Parallels are being drawn between the current rise of the pound and its potential impact on manufacturing industry and what happened because of sterling's appreciation in the early 1980s. In the early Thatcher years, Britain lost a large swath of its manufacturing capacity but the firms that survived were left leaner and meaner. Output did not return to the peak of December 1979 for eight long years but that output was delivered by one third fewer people.

The pain is not likely to be as great this time. Output fell by 17.5 per cent in the early 1980s. Even City pessimists are talking about zero, rather than negative, growth in manufacturing this year. In any case, doesn't the experience of the 1980s suggest that there could be a silver lining to this particular cloud in the form of a great leap forward in competitiveness?

It has been proven time and

again that industry scores its greatest gains under pressure from an overvalued exchange rate. Germany and Japan are prime examples. In the 1980s, America reacted to a strong dollar not only by cutting costs but also by investing in new technology.

In Britain, there were strong gains in productivity throughout the 1980s and even during the early 1990s recession but then the performance started to slip. Is it mere coincidence that companies lost their discipline almost as soon as sterling left the exchange-rate mechanism and pocketed virtually all the gains of the devaluation?

Manufacturers, currently crying foul over the Government's policy of benign neglect towards the pound, argue that they have

cut as much fat as they can. One only needs to look at the astonishing pay profligacy of SmithKline Beecham's board to know for certain that this is not true but, feline fat aside, there is always plenty that firms can do to improve their competitive positions. Industries that face constant declines in their prices — in the computer industry for example — engage in a continual search for productivity improvement.

The drive for greater competitiveness is not likely to be a re-run of Britain in the 1980s which relied on savage cuts to workforces. In a future that, as Professor Sir James Ball, author of a new book, *The British Economy at the Crossroads*, will have services, the creative industries and informa-



JANET BUSH

tion technology at its heart, shedding staff is not going to be the option that it was in the past. These industries will rely heavily on a relatively limited pool of precious skills rather than the physical capacity that replaced so many people in past shake-outs. Companies will have to innovate

and move to higher value-added products, in order to improve competitiveness. In Cool Britannia, this is exactly what we are told that Britain is uniquely capable of doing. Short-term pain notwithstanding, the strong pound could actually force British industry — whether in traditional manufacturing or in the service economy — to shift up a gear and finally close the productivity gap with Germany and others. It could also be argued that, if the euro is as soft a currency as many are assuming it will be at the start, Germany and its satellites will not be under enough pressure to improve productivity, giving Britain an even better chance of catching up.

DeAnne Julius, former chief economist at British Airways and

now one of the Monetary Policy Committee's avowed doves, acknowledges that a rising exchange rate forces companies into searching even harder for a competitive edge but productivity gains are ground out over a long period. "There could be a silver lining but it is a long-term silver lining," she said.

Whether companies are prepared to put in the groundwork depends crucially on whether they believe that the strength of the exchange rate will be sustained. If British firms believe, as the Bank of England appears to, that the pound's rise is a temporary phenomenon, there is little incentive to seek longer-term improvements in competitiveness rather than simply firing people. It may well

be that the pound remains relatively strong until it is subsumed into the euro. Its gains have largely been driven by the fact that the pound is to remain outside the single currency until early next century. If and when the time comes for it to join, European governments are likely to exact a price for Britain's delay in joining by demanding entry at a challenging rate. David Owen of Kleinwort Benson reckons their starting offer could be DM3.10, exactly where it is trading now.

So British industry may be stuck with the strong pound. If it tackles the problem now Britain could enter the euro at a high exchange rate (or indeed stay out with a high exchange rate) and still be super-competitive. That would be cool, Britannia.

The British Economy at the Crossroads is published by Financial Times Pitman Publishing. Tel: 01704 508080.

Japanese start to wipe away tears in financial markets

Foreign firms vie for a slice of a newly freed market, says Megan Rowling

Japan is not a country to rush headlong into deregulation. The Tokyo "big bang" may officially begin on April Fool's Day but it is a deadly serious business for the financial institutions, both foreign and Japanese, that operate here. It is the start of a fundamental change to the way Japan operates and strikes fear into the heart of many in the strictly controlled Japanese financial markets. The Japanese Government hopes that its three-year financial deregulation programme will open up markets, making them "free, fair and global" — and everybody wants a piece of the action.

As promised, today brings the liberalisation of Foreign Exchange law and of commissions on securities transactions. These two moves may not have an immediate effect on the Japanese financial landscape, but as the regulatory walls separating banks, security companies and life insurers are torn down most agree that increased competition will bring about a dramatic transformation.

Paul Heaton, financial analyst in Deutsche Morgan Grenfell in Tokyo, said: "The Japanese Government has set off a lot more bangs than it realised and that is why the financial sector will change immeasurably."

Ministry of Finance officials must still shiver at the memory of a fearful Shohji Nozawa, president of Yamaichi Securities, apologising for the collapse of his firm last November. In the same month, Hokkaido Tokai, a leading commercial bank, and Sanyo Securities, a second-tier broker, also went under. Despite hurriedly announced restructuring programmes, the outlook for Japan's weaker financial institutions remains bleak. The banking sector is still grappling with an estimated ¥73 trillion (£322 billion) in



Andrew Simmonds, top, is optimistic, while Peter Whelpton, left, is cautious about liberalised life after the days when Shohji Nozawa lamented failure with tears

non-performing loans as the country teeters on the brink of recession. Throw in a liberal dose of scandal over bribery involving bureaucrats and major financial institutions and further tears seem certain.

Mr Heaton believes that for the Government the most worrying aspect of "big bang" will be the consequences of fierce competition for the country's weakest financial institutions. He predicts: "Quite a few medium-sized brokerages are likely to fail, there will be big winners and big losers."

Among winners are likely to be Japan's healthier and more innovative domestic institu-

tions, foreign players and Japanese consumers. For Mr and Mrs Watanabe, who have long put up with returns as low as 0.5 per cent on their savings, the reforms should lead to a greater choice of higher-yielding onshore and off-shore retail investment products. The burning question is what Japanese consumers will choose to do with their estimated ¥1,250 trillion in personal savings over the next few years. Although foreign financial institutions have long coveted this pot of gold, they were prevented from establishing a significant presence in the retail market due to prohibitive costs

and regulatory barriers. But ahead of deregulation Japanese firms are eager to enlist the expertise of foreign asset managers. This has resulted in a number of international tie-ups over the past few months. Jardine Fleming, half owned by Robert Fleming, the merchant bank, has linked up with ten Japanese firms to form Nippon Investor Securities, which will market domestic and foreign investment trust funds across Japan from June. Jurichi Otsuka, director of administration of the joint venture estimates that the investment trust market will grow to around ¥120 trillion over the

next few years — triple its current size. He predicts that, as a result of "big bang" reforms, money will flow out of bank deposits that currently account for around 80 per cent of savings and into higher-yielding products such as mutual funds. Foreign firms, which still have a small share of the retail investment market, hope to repeat the success they are experiencing on the institutional side.

Andrew Simmonds, head of Barclays Capital in Japan, agrees that the current low level of mutualisation in the personal savings market offers "significant opportunities" for foreign asset managers. Barclays, which already manages ¥1.8 trillion of institutional assets in Japan, received an investment trust management licence from the Ministry of Finance yesterday. It now hopes to make inroads into the retail market through sales of mutual funds and pensions.

A major issue for all foreign players in this sector, however, is distribution. Currently investment trust products are sold almost exclusively by brokerages, but commercial banks will be able to offer them over the counter for the first time from October. The current dilemma is whether to opt for direct sales, an exclusive tie-up with a leading domestic institution or diversified marketing. Fidelity Investments of the US has chosen the direct route, including telesales. But some feel that Japanese consumers are not ready for the aggressive approach. Germany's Dresdner Bank is to offer joint asset management services with Meiji Life Insurance, Japan's fourth largest life insurer. The exclusive approach is also favoured by Deutsche Morgan Grenfell Asset Management, which is currently talking to prospective players.

However, Peter Whelpton, president of NatWest Gartmore Investment Management Japan, is sceptical about the long-term prospects for exclusive alliances between domestic and foreign players. "Almost all Japanese firms are trying to gain know-how in this field but I think the powerful ones really want to go it alone. It may be convenient for them to get into bed with foreign institutions for a while, but it pays to be wise about marriage before tying the knot."

Ultimately the success of the

retail asset management business in Japan depends on the willingness of consumers to invest their savings in high-return vehicles that also carry higher risk. One analyst at a British merchant bank gives warning that rising levels of unemployment and a lack of confidence in the financial system may steer individuals away from such investments.

Hiroshi Yamamoto, chief representative for DMG asset management in Japan explains that consumers lost confidence in equity based investment trusts after the collapse of Japan's "bubble" economy in the early 1990s.

"But once the domestic equity market recovers, the investment trust market will row again," he predicts. Over the next two to three years, DMG hopes to increase threefold the ¥90 billion it currently manages in investment funds.

Foreign asset managers also hope to pursue lucrative opportunities in the embryonic private pension fund market, but believe that it will take time to build up consumer confidence in the product. As "big bang" progresses, the reaction of Japanese consumers to new retail investment products will be scrutinised intensely by financial institutions, domestic and Japanese alike.

Mr Yamamoto is curious to see whether individuals will take advantage of the April 1 foreign exchange liberalisation, allowing them open access to foreign currency accounts for the first time. "In Japan, if somebody hears that their neighbour has set up a US dollar account, it is likely that they will also rush out and do it," he laughs. Fund managers must be hoping that investment trusts will eclipse Tamaogochi as the nation's latest craze.

Heard yesterday morning on Radio 4 on the uneasy relationship between spin doctors, No 10 and parliamentary correspondents. Her second performance in as many days on Radio 4, as it happens. She left The Times, of course, to act as an adviser to John Major in the difficult weeks before last year's general election. Oddly, though, one of the preceding news items on the Today programme gave much prominence to a report by Healey & Baker, the property company, on urban regeneration. Must congratulate their PR, I thought. Who she? Oh, hi, Sheila, it's you again.

Floored

LAST year a strange man called Michael Hardern tried to persuade Nationwide members to elect him to the board. His campaign was defeated by three votes to one. Hardern's many eccentricities, such as an arresting dress style, and his frequent publicity stunts counted against him.

This year's Michael Hardern runs a recruitment agency for accountants in Slough, which is dull enough, I suppose. Andy Muir's resolution to the July annual meeting, requiring between £500 and £5,000 to be handed over to each member, has been rejected by the Nationwide as "flawed legally and constitutionally". He claims they



Michael Hardern's successor is squaring up at Nationwide



Sterling work

The end of an era at Dresdner Kleinwort Benson as Johnny Cameron resigns as co-head of Global Asset Management. Johnny has been holding together the sterling bonds operation against all odds for ten years. Now he is returning to his roots as managing director of corporate and institutional banking at Royal Bank of Scotland.

The name is a giveaway, but no one speaking to Cameron would guess he is Scottish. "It is said the people from Inverness-shire speak the purest English," he tells me.

□ FULL marks to Sheila

Classic art

IT SEEMS a curious way of commemorating the burning down of your home, building a fish pond and floating seven fondue sets in it, but this is art, and who am I to quibble? Sir Peter Michael, who made two fortunes at UEL and Cray Electronics and went on to found Classic FM, knows more than I do about the subject and commissioned sculptor William Pye to build "Fire & Water" when his home at Eddington, Berkshire, burnt down and was flooded in 1996.

The work adorns the terrace at his new restaurant and hotel, the Vineyard at nearby

Stockcross, and was unveiled by Sir Roy Strong yesterday. Sir Peter explained his latest venture thus: "When you get to my late stage in life [60 this year, not that he looks it], a lot of men decide to build a yacht. Was I going to build a yacht and use other people's restaurants, or build a restaurant and use other people's yachts?"

Which only leaves the vulgar question of how much it all cost. Sir Peter admits the kitchen of the restaurant alone set him back £1.5 million but stays mum on the sculpture. I am told they got to £150,000 and stopped counting.

□ "DUE to the cessation of their business" a three-day auction of 4,500 lots of fine art, furniture and other office effects is announced for the end of this month. The fine art is by various painters I have never heard of — my source says minor 19th century Scottish, so right up your street if you like stags and glens. I imagine. Canteen equipment includes a meat slicer. A clue, this: the sale is of unwanted property of Yamaichi, which packed up in disgrace three months ago. One meat slicer, slightly used on a succession of little fingers.



William Pye's Fire & Water: a matter of taste?

BUSINESS LETTERS

Give New Deal a chance but do not believe it will be absolutely painless

From M C Fitzpatrick
Sir, Janet Bush ("Give the New Deal a chance to work", March 25) is surely right to say that the New Deal (to help put the unemployed back to work) must be given a chance.

The New Deal has been financed by a £5 billion levy on the utility companies, which have a combined market value of around £100 billion. However, her statement that the New Deal programme is "absolutely painless for the taxpayer" should perhaps be challenged.

It seems unlikely that one can extract tax equivalent to around 5 per cent of the market value of a sector without some long-term impact on the sector's share prices — in other words, utility share prices will overall be less than they would have been had the windfall tax never been invented. This in turn affects millions of taxpayers with pension funds, Peps, life assurance policies or in-

dead direct investments in utility companies.

Putting the above point to one side, the other way in which the New Deal is not "painless" to the taxpayer can be appreciated by speculating on what the money might otherwise have been used for.

For example, an extra £4bn could have been put into the NHS in the four years to 2001/02. Our widely publicised NHS waiting list model suggests that, had this been done, waiting lists might have been 500,000 lower by March 2002, than they will be in the absence of this extra £4bn.

Many taxpayers might have viewed such a reduction as a tangible achievement, against which the benefits of the New Deal will have to be judged.

Yours faithfully,
M. C. FITZPATRICK,
Head of Economics,
Chantrey Vellacott,
Russell Square House,
10-12 Russell Square,
London, WC1B 5LF

The side of capitalism that is unacceptable

From C R Orchard,
Sir, A company announces simultaneously record annual profits, enhanced dividends for shareholders, large bonuses for its directors and substantial redundancies among the workforce.

I find this repugnant. Those profits were made largely by the company's employees. They would have worked a good deal of unpaid overtime, in the hope that their dedication and loyalty would be rewarded by that company.

One reason for the directors acting in this way is that "no man can serve three masters". Shareholders expect good dividends. The directors want to make a killing. Does anybody on a board like that speak for the employees?

Two arguments are regularly used to defend this common scenario. Technology makes human beings an expensive

luxury and it is essential to outperform your rivals.

The first argument needs careful assessment. The benefits of a happy workforce giving better service because it is not stress-ridden are considerable. The second argument is problematical. Large companies should always make reasonable profits whatever their share of the market.

Our young people receive the messages that money matters and old people don't and that loyalty is folly. Society's strains will increase as there is increasing polarisation between the few rich and the many who struggle desperately.

Is this the kind of England we want? *Cui Bono?*
Yours faithfully,
C. R. ORCHARD,
41 Floral Farm,
Canford Magna,
Wimborne,
Dorset, BH21 3AT.

"IT GIVES PARTICULAR BENEFITS OF MOTIVATION BOTH TO STAFF AND MANAGEMENT"

Rosaria Wilson, Wilson Kinnaird

Rosaria Wilson and over 80,000 other employers already insist on the AAT for their accountancy training at technician level. The AAT's Education and Training Scheme is available at more than 450 training centres in the UK. Many employers also choose to train their staff in-house, with the AAT's support and approval.

AAT students look forward to a professional qualification - the chance to enjoy all the benefits, support and status of being a Member of the Association of Accounting Technicians (MAAT). For proven quality and staff who can deliver, think AAT.

Find out how the AAT can help you with your accountancy training needs.

AAT - The Gold Standard for Accounting Technicians

The AAT aims to promote and advance respectability and professional development in accounting. Registered as a Charity, No 106079.

CALL WENDY JAMES ON 0171 434 6994
AAT THE GOLD STANDARD FOR ACCOUNTING TECHNICIANS

POST TO: Wendy James, Association of Accounting Technicians, 154 Clerkenwell Road, London EC1R 5AD. Please send me further details of how the AAT can help me

Name: _____
Position: _____
Address: _____
Tel: _____
Fax: _____

I am interested in training myself () and () (please tick relevant box)

7/1/98
AAT THE GOLD STANDARD FOR ACCOUNTING TECHNICIANS

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

[illegible]

Equities hold steady

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1997/98				1998/99			
High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES							
618	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
619	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
620	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
621	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
622	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
623	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
624	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
625	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
626	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
627	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
628	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
629	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
630	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
631	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
632	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
633	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
634	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
635	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
636	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
637	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
638	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
639	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
640	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
641	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
642	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
643	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
644	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
645	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
646	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
647	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
648	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
649	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
650	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
651	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
652	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
653	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
654	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
655	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
656	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
657	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
658	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
659	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
660	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
661	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
662	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
663	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
664	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
665	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
666	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
667	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
668	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
669	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
670	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
671	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
672	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
673	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
674	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
675	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
676	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
677	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
678	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
679	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
680	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
681	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
682	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
683	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
684	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
685	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
686	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
687	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
688	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
689	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
690	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
691	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
692	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
693	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
694	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
695	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
696	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
697	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
698	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
699	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
700	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
701	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
702	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
703	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
704	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
705	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
706	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
707	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
708	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
709	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
710	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
711	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
712	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
713	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
714	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
715	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
716	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
717	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
718	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
719	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
720	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
721	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
722	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
723	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
724	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
725	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
726	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
727	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
728	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
729	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
730	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
731	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
732	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
733	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
734	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
735	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
736	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
737	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
738	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
739	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
740	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
741	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
742	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
743	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
744	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
745	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
746	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
747	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
748	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
749	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
750	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
751	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
752	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
753	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
754	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
755	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
756	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
757	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
758	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
759	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
760	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
761	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
762	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
763	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
764	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
765	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
766	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
767	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
768	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
769	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
770	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
771	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
772	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
773	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
774	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
775	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
776	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
777	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
778	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
779	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
780	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
781	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
782	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
783	420	420	420	420	420	420	

As President Kim Dae Jung begins a visit to Britain, Jennifer Veale introduces a special report on South Korea's financial fightback

Soldiering on in a new battle

David Watts on 45 years of a special bilateral relationship

PRESIDENT Kim Dae Jung of South Korea arrived in Britain last night for a four-day visit, his first journey abroad since his inauguration in February. Britain has played host to three of his predecessors, and nobody who was there will forget Margaret Thatcher's visit to Korea in May 1986. For her the country epitomised the can-do spirit that animates the bilateral relationship.

Anglo-Korean relations are always at their strongest during hard times. Many British soldiers barely knew where the country was when they were dispatched to the Korean War in 1951. Yet out of that conflict grew ties that continue to defy distance and cultural gulfs.

Korea's gritty determination to pull itself back from the economic abyss and to take on South-East Asia's toughest competitors has earned it Britain's admiration.

Who could have predicted Korea's prodigious success, or that the Korean population in Nineties Britain would be sufficient to support four weekly newspapers and two magazines.

But although the Korean miracle has lost its lustre, there has not been a

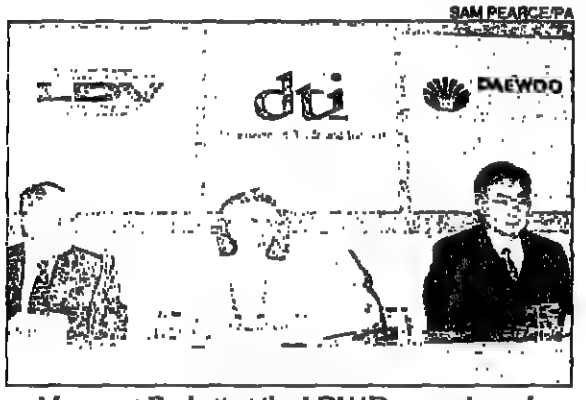
stampede for the nearest exit by Korean companies investing in Britain.

One big computer chip plant may have put things on hold but most companies seem determined to keep Korea in the top rank of foreign investing countries — as evidenced by Daewoo's £25 million stake in the British van maker LDV, born out of the former Leyland Daf group.

The deal will see £160 million channelled into the company over the next five years, with the ultimate aim of quadrupling output to 80,000 vehicles a year and providing 2,000 new jobs by 2005.

Development of the Daewoo Worthing Technical Centre is well advanced, and a new LDV/Daewoo van range will be launched early in the new millennium. Manufacturing will start in Daewoo's Polish plant in Lublin, and thereafter will be split with the Birmingham branch.

Anglo-Korean trade — which passed the £1.9 billion mark in 1991 — reached £4.3 billion for the year to end-November 1997. And it seems likely to see further growth, given the competitive prices that South Korean companies will now be able to offer.



Margaret Beckett at the LDV/Daewoo launch

South Korea's nationhood has been distinguished by resilience in the face of foreign invasion, but this year a foreign invasion of a gentler kind is what the country needs to survive another crisis.

It has seen some spectacular reversals of fortune in recent years, mirroring its tumultuous history as a nation sandwiched between superpowers.

Korea as we now know it would probably not exist if it were not for the fighting qualities of the Shilla dynasty, which unified the peninsula in AD668 after many years of Chinese domination. This dynasty institutionalised the iron-edged social hierarchy and respect for authority that remain as powerful forces in Korean society.

A distinct and complex culture evolved over the next 1,500 years; then in 1910 Japanese forces colonised the peninsula until the allied victory in 1945.

Since throwing off its colonial shackles and breaking with the north in 1948, it has proved one of the world's industrial wonders, transforming itself from a war-torn wasteland into the world's eleventh largest economy.

Now the wheel of fortune has turned again for South Korea. Spirits were high two years ago when it was admitted into the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, but they crashed last year amid a financial crisis that nearly forced the nation to default on a mountain of foreign debt.

With no foreign exchange reserves worth mentioning, Korea last November became the fourth Asian nation in 11 months to go cap-in-hand to the International Monetary Fund for rescue loans.

The fact that the \$58.35 billion (£35.25 billion) loan package was the largest ever delivered by the IMF spoke volumes for the depth of the country's problems.

In return for the credit lifeline, South Korea has had to embrace a series of economic reforms, including the opening up of its financial markets and corporate sector to foreign investment and competition.

Now a new Government is inviting foreign investment into the traditionally shuttered economy. President Kim Dae Jung is the prime mover



Economy drive: Seoul is fighting back after being forced to go cap-in-hand to the IMF for £35.25 billion loan package, the largest ever delivered

Braced for an upturn on wheel of fortune

behind this bid to change the national mentality.

It has been four months since the financial crisis saw South Korea go within a whisker of default on \$153 billion (£92 billion) in foreign debt. The Government seems to grasp the enormity of this

situation, and early signs are encouraging. South Korea's currency, the won, has shown signs of stabilising at around W1,350 to the dollar, and recently the Government managed to reschedule almost \$24 billion in foreign debt.

Since the liberalisation of the stock and bond markets and the go-ahead for mergers and acquisitions, foreign investors are seen as the linchpins of a successful recovery. The crucial factor militating against a flood of foreign investment is the debt load of the sprawling family-run corporations, the *chaebol*, which routinely register debt-to-equity ratios of 400 per cent.

The *chaebol*, whose reckless borrowing has laid them open to much of the blame for last December's financial crisis, are trying to reduce their reliance on debt financing.

There are still sceptics who predict another foreign debt crisis, despite last month's successful debt rescheduling. According to a recent report by SBC Warburg Dillon Read, South Korea's conglomerates have nearly \$80 billion of foreign debt coming due this year.

Despite its headlong rush to

democracy and its sophisticated industrial sector, the country is still largely suspicious of foreign influence. Only last month, teachers waged an unofficial campaign against the blockbuster movie *Titanic*, urging pupils to shun the film and telling them that spending money to see it was akin to throwing precious foreign exchange out of the country.

The President's challenge is to convince Koreans the pain of the "IMF era" is a necessary antidote to the excesses of the recent past. It won't be easy, as the worsening recession is expected to drive average annual income down from \$10,540 to \$6,600.

Faced with an unprecedented level of unemployment, the President is taking steps to provide an adequate social welfare net while urging the *chaebol* not to dismiss workers. With the jobless rate at a 14-year high, he has announced that he will throw open the doors to foreign investment by dropping re-

strictions on foreign ownership of property.

Hostile takeovers of South Korean companies will be allowed from this month, and foreign corporations have already expressed interest in some of the nation's struggling banks.

With imports falling dramatically, the country's current account deficit has dwindled — a hopeful sign as Seoul's game plan is to use the weakened currency to export its way out of the slump. Some of the *chaebol*, especially the giant Daewoo, are especially well-placed to do this as they have established production facilities all around the world. But the situation on the home front will remain dire until these reforms take hold.

Already, the homeless and unemployed are gathering in unprecedented numbers around the capital city's central railway station.

At least South Koreans can take some solace in the fact that in their President they

have a leader who has given every indication he is prepared to take the decisions needed to rebuild the economy. He is helped by the fact that it is in nobody's interest to let South Korea fall.

Its border with the belligerent North Korea is the most tense in the world, a flashpoint that could explode if the North senses an economic collapse gathering steam in the South.

The South is a significant trading partner for America, which has 37,000 troops stationed on the peninsula, and increasingly for China, which risked a split with its ally North Korea to establish diplomatic relations with the south in the early Nineties.

Even without a working majority in the National Assembly, the President, 74, has put aside doubt about his age to present a positive face to a largely sceptical world.

This President listens, and he wants to lead actively, says Professor Lho Kyung Soo, a political scientist at Seoul National University. "The circumstances are terrible, but his intellect and political capabilities are encouraging factors."

Foreign investors are seen as the linchpin of recovery

Family cabals in decline

SOUTH Korea's sprawling conglomerates, for years the engines of its meteoric economic growth, have survived the country's latest financial crisis, but are being forced to change the way they do business, Jennifer Veale writes.

The nation's top 30 conglomerates, or *chaebol*, are being asked to unravel their byzantine structures to provide investors with more openness in the wake of a financial crisis late last year that brought it close to default on \$153 billion (£92 billion) in foreign debt.

The *chaebol* grew out of postwar South Korea's desire to raise its standard of living and take its place among the world's industrial powerhouses. They are predominantly family-run, and there is usually no holding company. The biggest — Daewoo, Hyundai, Samsung — all had humble beginnings but now are world-class producers of a vast range of products.

But last year the *chaebol* ran into trouble as bank debt and depressed world prices took their toll. Profits for all but a couple of the elite conglomerates fell off, mirroring the problems the economy was experiencing and highlighting the need for drastic reform.

Improvement has come courtesy of the International Monetary Fund, which delivered \$58 billion in rescue loans but demanded the corporate sector reduce its debt-to-equity ratios, bolster

shareholders' rights, introduce transparency to account books, and slim down operations to core businesses.

The top conglomerates have debt ratios of at least 400 per cent, the result of a lending spree to fund ambitious expansion plans. They have grown so large that the two biggest, Hyundai and Samsung, each generate more turnover than many small nations. Debt-financing has proven a hard habit to break — last year bank loans to the top *chaebol* rose by 42 per cent.

Easy credit and a closed domestic market have enabled the *chaebol* to dominate the corporate landscape for decades. Much of the debt was accrued by healthy subsidiaries guaranteeing bank loans to weaker affiliates — a practice that secured more credit, but left affiliates and banks heavily exposed.

President Kim Dae Jung has made *chaebol* reform a cornerstone of his fledgling administration, as they are by far the biggest employers and hold the bulk of corpo-

rate debt. He has repeatedly assailed the powerful *chaebol* chiefs for a lack of accountability. The President, who has never been close to the *chaebol* elite, has told them to swap unwanted business lines with other *chaebol* to pare down their empires to core businesses.

He calls these swaps "big deals", reflecting the importance of slimming down the many-headed *chaebol*. Although none has yet taken place, there are some in the pipeline; the auto giant Hyundai has promised to swap a business line if it takes over Kia Motors.

"There could be more in the works, so far there's been a lot of talk but no transactions," says Hank Morris, a securities analyst in Seoul.

The *chaebol* realise they must slim down and adopt modern consolidated accounting to survive and impress foreign investors. "The general direction of reform seems to be right, but the *chaebol* aren't moving quickly enough," says Peter Kim, an analyst with James Capel HSBC.

INDUSTRY



The IMF lends its name to a sale

The *chaebol* realise that they must open up

"Transparency is still a new concept for the *chaebol*. I don't think they really know how to appease foreign investors."

An encouraging sign is the growing campaign for shareholder rights, which have been largely ignored in South Korea. At a recent meeting of Samsung Electronics shareholders, managers were confronted by bold shareholders unhappy with part of the company's corporate strategy.

"This was the first time that a company of this stature was subjected to questioning from the floor," says Mr Morris. "Usually the financial report is presented, the management voted in instantly and the meeting adjourned, all in about 20 minutes. The new Government aims to bolster the rights of smaller shareholders in terms of obliging managers to consult shareholders before big decisions."

The *chaebol* are confronting their astronomical debt levels and most aim to reduce debt ratios to less than 200 per cent — closer to levels common in the West. But while agreeing on the need for transparency, they say they cannot introduce all the measures demanded by the IMF by 2000. So while the *chaebol* are sounding as though they are being quite co-operative, in practice the big conglomerates are focusing on exports to ensure that they emerge from the current recession in good shape.

Global Emissions Management

One in three of all autocatalysts in use around the world was made by Johnson Matthey

Johnson Matthey Catalytic Systems Division is the world's largest supplier of autocatalysts with more than a quarter of a century of experience in innovation and production of vehicle emission control solutions.

Johnson Matthey has manufacturing facilities on every continent

We provide a very flexible and accessible network of production and research facilities located close to centres of automotive manufacturing to maximise the benefits of local tax incentive schemes, better delivery times and reduced transport costs.

Johnson Matthey invests more than twice the industry average in R&D

Research and development is fundamental to the success of Johnson Matthey. Each year we invest more than twice the industry average in catalyst development, ensuring we are able to offer the best technology to meet ever more stringent emissions standards.

Johnson Matthey already has autocatalysts capable of meeting future emissions standards

Our latest generation of high temperature three way catalysts, close coupled or with a starter catalyst, can be used to meet Stage three and ULEV emissions targets.



Johnson Matthey
Catalytic Systems Division

Orchard Road, Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 5HE, United Kingdom.
For further details contact Alistair Pryde - pryde@matthey.com

Technology Driven, Customer Led

Brave reformer who beat the death squads

Robert Whyman meets the new President who faces the future with hope

A booklet published by South Korea's Information Ministry calls President Kim Dae Jung an "inspiring" leader blessed with "uncommon courage and conviction".

Once, this same ministry produced hagiographies of a series of authoritarian rulers who held the nation in an iron grip. But that is in the past and it is impossible to argue with the description of the president.

South Korea's new leader lived years of prison, at least to assassination attempts, and forced exile overseas. His title to restore democracy, of which Korea had had only the barest taste, lasted nearly three decades.

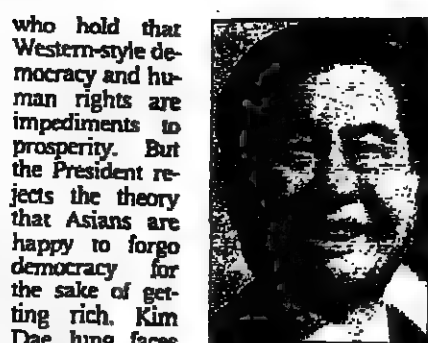
The nation truly owes him a debt of gratitude for his struggle on behalf of democracy and human rights, says the official English language profile of him. For once, the fiery in a government hand-ouls well-deserved.

Kim Dae Jung took office in February, inheriting a financial crisis which has shaken the confidence of a people accustomed to economic success. The new President has vowed to bring about a "second economic miracle". But before that he must nurse the nation through the pain of austerity and find a way to make the prescriptions of the IMF palatable to the masses.

He has assumed the reins of power at an inauspicious moment. But he says he will not be deterred from putting into practice his long-held belief that economic progress and democracy must go together.

"In the past, the leaders and people considered prosperity as the most important goal, while democracy and human rights were sacrificed," the President said in a recent interview. On taking office, he pledged to demonstrate that these goals are compatible.

Or may be sure that not everyone wishes him success. Asia has more than its fair share of authoritarian rulers



The President, Kim Dae Jung

'His long journey from prison to President has been remarkable'

who hold that Western-style democracy and human rights are impediments to prosperity. But the President rejects the theory that Asians are happy to forgo democracy for the sake of getting rich. Kim Dae Jung faces other tough challenges. He has emphasised reconciliation with North Korea, and is laying the groundwork for talks.

During his years in the wilderness, Kim Dae Jung was reviled by South Korea's military leaders. Intelligence agencies missed no chance to brand him a "pro-socialist radical". That is why the new President is taking care to balance his overtures to Pyongyang with the customary rhetoric about maintaining vigilance, and strong defenses, against the North.

A few miles north of Seoul, North Korea's armies glare menacingly over the Demilitarised Zone. Incursions and gunfights across the border serve as a constant reminder that the fragile truce which ended the Korean War is no lasting guarantee of peace.

The Cold War confrontation between the two Koreas gave the military strongmen who ruled the South a plausible pretext to strangle political dissent.

President Park Chung Hee, and his successor, Chun Doo Hwan, cited the "threat from the North" to justify the persecution of their critics. Few suffered as much as Kim Dae Jung, who belongs to the political centre and is staunchly pro-American. But govern-

ment propaganda painted him as a traitor who supported North Korea. And there is no doubt the Information Ministry's slanders shaped popular perceptions of the opposition leader. South Koreans, however much they disliked living under dictatorship, accepted that the threat from the North was real, and that civil liberties had to be sacrificed for the cause of national security.

Hounded by the military strongmen, Kim Dae Jung argued tenaciously that a stable democratic system offered the best guarantee of securing the South against a communist takeover. But his was a lone voice, drowned out by state propaganda, or silenced by the secret police apparatus of the Korean Central Intelligence Agency.

The President, born to a poor farming family in 1925, when South Korea was under Japanese rule, won a National Assembly seat in May, 1961. Just three days later, an obscure army general, Park Chung Hee, staged a military coup and overthrew the popularly supported Government.

Kim Dae Jung was first perceived as a threat in the 1971 election, when he challenged President Park's iron rule, and lost by a slim margin. In the course of the campaign, an army truck careened across a road, smashing into Kim Dae Jung's car, causing injuries from which he still limps today.

So worried was President Park by Kim Dae Jung's appeal that he rammed

through a new Constitution in 1972 to abolish popular elections. And in the summer of 1973, a more determined attempt was made to silence him. A hit squad was dispatched to Tokyo, where he was organising Koreans committed to democratic government in the South.

It was here that I first met Kim Dae Jung, and was struck by his conviction that democracy in South Korea would be achieved peacefully one day, without resort to revolution. Kim Dae Jung confided that he was being pursued by President Park's hired killers, and was trying to throw them off his tracks. A fortnight later, he was spirited away from a Tokyo hotel.

Five days elapsed before he was dumped, dazed and bruised, but miraculously still alive, in a street in Seoul. His abductors had planned to hurt him into the sea, and he was only saved at the eleventh hour by the intervention of the American Government.

Evidence pointed to the involvement of the Korean Embassy in Tokyo, but the Japanese politicians were more concerned with nurturing commercial relations with South Korea than solving a crime.

It was the US, again, which came to Kim Dae Jung's rescue towards the end of 1980 when he was in a Seoul prison, facing execution. Details of how President-elect Ronald Reagan applied pressure on the military regime of General Chun Doo Hwan to spare him emerged only recently.

In 1980 no one expected that Kim Dae Jung would one day sit at the pinnacle of power in South Korea. His journey from prison to the presidential palace has been every bit as remarkable as that of Nelson Mandela. When the President an ardent Anglophile, visits London, he deserves the longest red carpet that Britain has to offer.



Buddhist monks perform in Seoul, where traditional mores underpin newly acquired Western values

AT first glimpse, South Korea looks like a modern Western society complete with skyscrapers, flashy vehicles, chic cafés and the latest movies. But the pull of traditional culture is strong, leaving many Koreans with a foot in both camps.

South Korea's rapid economic development is unprecedented in world history. In only four decades it has risen from the ashes of the Korean War to become an affluent society with a sophisticated industrial base and a highly educated population. Korean companies such as Samsung, Hyundai and Daewoo are well known and are increasingly associated with state-of-the-art technology.

But despite its image as a producer of the ultra-high-tech, South Koreans have a love-hate relationship with Western culture. A centuries-old fear of invasion has made many Koreans suspicious of foreigners. But the younger generation is being seduced by the glamour of the West.

"Most Koreans want to behave like Westerners when they are young but as soon as they reach their thirties they become as conservative as their parents," says Han Sun

Potent mix of old and new

SOCIETY & CULTURE

Hee, 38, an office worker in Seoul.

"They start to get very frustrated when they see their children are more capable of holding a fork than a pair of chopsticks." Their skill is probably developed at the country's countless American fast-food outlets.

Until recently, most Koreans were shut off from the rest of the world. Overseas travel was allowed only ten years ago, shortly before the Seoul Olympic Games, and many older citizens have never left the country.

Nevertheless, the flowering of the economy and the attendant rise in the standard of living has allowed Western culture to filter into South Korea. Young Koreans, given a headstart in English by schooling that lays great stress on being bilingual, are

obsessed with American pop stars and movie idols.

The creeping Westernisation has seen young Korean couples gravitate toward the nuclear rather than the traditional Asian extended family. Increasingly, newlyweds are choosing to live apart from their families in clusters of high-rise apartment blocks.

"Everyone lives in apartments and the kinship system is breaking down in the sense that young people are torn," says Professor Hahn Chai-bong, an American-educated political scientist at Yonsei University in Seoul.

"They feel terrible that they aren't fulfilling their traditional obligations. So during the two traditional annual holidays the country comes to a halt as Koreans go back to their clan to perform ancestral rituals."

This mix of traditional and Western life is evident even during the wedding ceremony, when the bride and groom don a dinner jacket and wedding dress for photographs, and then change into traditional dress for a ceremony honouring the groom's parents. But, Professor Hahn says, many newlywed women are riven with guilt for failing to fulfil their obligations as daughters-in-law, who traditionally become the property of the groom's parents.

EVEN South Korea's political system is a curious blend of the old and the new. "It's outwardly a Western system, but the way they think is different," says Professor Hahn.

Scuffles in parliament are still a common sight, and policymaking is often driven more by personal allegiance than national good.

Tradition regains its sway during crisis periods. The economic downturn has spawned a virulent campaign against imports that at times has become anti-foreign sentiment.

JENNIFER VEALE

A warm welcome to President Kim, Dae-Jung and the First lady of the Republic of Korea.

WHAT HAPPENS TO AN IDEA THAT WINS A NOBEL PRIZE?

TFT-LCD MONITOR

DIGITAL VIDEO CAMCORDER

PLASMA DISPLAY PANEL BASE HOME THEATER SYSTEM



THE NOBEL PRIZE MEDAL

IT GOES INTO TECHNOLOGIES THAT IMPROVE OUR LIVES. IN 1928, OWEN W. RICHARDSON WON THE NOBEL PRIZE IN PHYSICS FOR HIS WORK IN THERMIONICS. HIS DISCOVERIES EVOLVED INTO CATHODE RAY TUBE TECHNOLOGY. IN 1970, LOUIS NEEL'S WORK IN FERROMAGNETISM MADE POSSIBLE DIRECT IMPROVEMENTS IN COMPUTER MEMORY STORAGE UNITS. IN 1991, PIERRE-GILLES DE GENNES' LIQUID CRYSTAL TECHNOLOGY LED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF ULTRA THIN FLAT-SCREEN DISPLAYS. THEY ARE THE NOBEL LAUREATES. THE PEOPLE WHO GET THERE

FIRST, AND SHOW THE WORLD WHAT'S POSSIBLE. WE FOLLOW THEM. WE KEEP UP, AND WE LEARN. AND WE USE THEIR VISION TO MAKE OUR PRODUCTS BETTER. FROM DIGITAL CAMCORDERS AND WIDE SCREEN TELEVISIONS TO FLAT SCREEN MONITORS. THIS IS WHY SAMSUNG IS A GLOBAL SPONSOR OF THE NOBEL PRIZE SERIES. AND WHY WE'RE PROUD TO SUPPORT THE NOBEL PRIZE SERIES WEBSITE, A WIDE RANGE OF INTERACTIVE MULTIMEDIA PRODUCTS AND THE NOBEL ANNUAL.

SAMSUNG

ELECTRONICS

<http://samsungelectronics.com>

<http://samsungelectronics.co.uk>

NOTTINGHAM
Theatre Royal
23-27 June
0115 989 5555

Peace with the enemy?

Jennifer Veale reports on what the North Koreans can expect of the South's new President

South Korea's traditional policy towards its belligerent Communist neighbour, North Korea, is neatly encapsulated in a famous sculpture at Seoul's monolithic Korean War Memorial.

The statue depicts an embrace by two brothers who meet while fighting on opposite sides during the 1950-53 Korean War. But the South Korean is disproportionately larger than his Communist younger brother, who reaches for him as a child would his mother.

While the scene reflects the desire of most Koreans for peaceful unification, it also depicts a certain inflexibility in South Korea's official stance, before the inauguration of President Kim Dae Jung, on the issue of North Korea.

Relations between the neighbours, who are technically still at war as no peace treaty was signed in 1953, deteriorated under the former President, Kim Young Sam, who was distrusted by the North. Plans for a leadership summit between him and North Korea's Kim Jong Il fell through amid accusations that the southern leader had not paid his respects at the death of the Communist regime's founder, Kim Il Sung.

President Kim Dae Jung, who was sworn in on February 25, appears determined to set bilateral relations back on track. One of his first acts was to hold out what amounted to an olive branch. He used his inauguration speech to set the foreign policy tone for his presidency, proposing a leadership summit, an exchange of envoys and new dialogue on the reunion of families separated by the militarised border bisecting the peninsula.

He laid particular stress on the 1992 Basic Agreement signed by both sides to pursue peaceful reunification: "I cannot but feel boundless shame before our ancestors, who maintained one unified country for more than 1,300 years," President Kim Dae Jung said.

He unveiled three underlying principles to his North Korea policy: "First, we will

never tolerate armed provocation of any kind. Second, we do not have any intention to undermine or absorb North Korea. Third, we will actively pursue reconciliation and co-operation between the South and the North."

Recent Korean history is strewn with the bones of well-intentioned peace initiatives, some of them hatched under the stewardship of Kim Young Sam. President Kim Dae Jung is a student of history and does not believe his policies will bring about unification within his five-year term.

He is, however, uniquely placed to make real progress, since for more than 30 years he fought political repression in his homeland and was not viewed by the North with the same suspicion it accorded to the South's ultra-conservative political and military elite.

As president, Kim Dae Jung has proved anything but a dove on the Communist issue, but has shown an encouraging flexibility. "He has taken the initiative in dealing with North Korea by proposing summit talks," says Professor Kim Sung Han of the Institute for Foreign Affairs and National Security.

"But right now the two sides are trying to read each other's minds... and they will talk later about whether they should push through with direct contacts." A cautionary note was struck last month when four-way peace talks in Geneva involving the two Koreas, America and China collapsed once again.

The famine tightening its grip on the North is a worrying variable as it may prompt the regime to reach out for assistance or lash out as the economy disintegrates. "The ball is in North Korea's court," Professor Lho Kyung-Soo, a political scientist at Seoul National University, says. "How it responds remains to be seen — it's a highly insecure regime."

"I think the South's policy is still waiting to emerge but President Kim Dae Jung's initial posture is conciliatory. He wants to pursue whatever initiatives he can to engage the North in broader dialogue."



North-South divide: a kindergarten teacher guides her charges past an M1 tank at the War Memorial Museum in Seoul

WHAT CAR?
CAR
OF THE
YEAR
AWARDS 1998
"Best Warranty
and After Sales"

WINNER: DAEWOO

DO WE DESERVE
THIS CUSTOMER
CARE AWARD?
TELL US IN
3 YEARS TIME.

Why 3 years? Because that's how long our comprehensive aftersales package lasts. This means that every new Daewoo - the Lanos, Nubira, and the Leganza - comes with 3 years/60,000 mile free servicing, including all labour, parts and a courtesy car. A 3 year/60,000 mile comprehensive warranty and 3 years Daewoo Total AA Cover. For more information about our cars and our service, please call us on freephone 0800 666 222.

BEST CUSTOMER CARE? THAT'LL BE THE DAEWOO

Carmakers have become potent force

Ruth Taplin on the motor industry's ambitious plans

South Korean automotive manufacturing continues to be a success story despite the economic restructuring and turmoil that has hit markets.

Daewoo is an ambitious company that plans to make and sell 2.5 million vehicles worldwide by 2000. As Kim Woo Chung, the company's chairman, explains, Daewoo Motor is engaged in a number of joint ventures and calls on the services of numerous consulting engineering firms. It has a joint venture with General Motors, which supplies Daewoo in Korea with components. Central European countries are used for manufacturing and Poland, in particular, has a growing manufacturing site in Warsaw known as Daewoo FSO.

Two years ago it opened a commercial vehicle plant in Lublin, which now makes a profit. Daewoo sees the region as one with tremendous potential. Western Europe and the UK in particular are seen as important research and development sites. Daewoo owns the Worthing R&D Centre in West Sussex where it employs 700 British and 100 Korean engineers. They are working on new production style as well as improving technology.

Daewoo concentrates on automobile manufacture, shipbuilding and industrial machines. Yang Jae Shin, the former president of Daewoo Motor, set stringent targets by year and department. A quality target has been established to bring the standard to the level of the Japanese motor giant Toyota.

The Daewoo strategy of making direct sales to customers, letting them have a car free for a week to see if they like it, giving discounts and providing a complete after-care customer service, proved to be successful.

Daewoo's policy is to ensure quality control through personal customer service and regular reporting back to the Korean headquarters. The emphasis placed on customer service has paid off - Daewoo recently won the Best Warranty and After Sales Award from What Car magazine.

Kia Motors is unusual in the Korean automotive sphere - it operates as an independent company rather than as a conglomerate. Because Kia did not have the financial support of a conglomerate, it almost collapsed last year under the weight of the impending economic crisis. However, a government bailout has ensured its long-term survival.

It has a trading company but not a finance group and being a smaller, independent company, it is not constrained by a larger corporation. Kia is continuing to open markets worldwide and is to develop its business in Europe and the United States.

Kia has also made inroads into the UK market after being voted second best for customer satisfaction in a survey in *Motoring World* magazine in March last year.

In 1996 the company filed for about 16,000 industrial patents and utility designs both at home and abroad, continuing to strengthen its overseas patent registrations. In the basic and letting technology sector, Kia developed various alternative fuel cars such as electronic compressed natural gas and jetanol cars, and permanent all-wheel-drive and aluminium cars. These are important for developing environmentally sound cars of the future.

Hyundai wants to increase its presence in the UK market and boost its sales here. The company's International Motors Division was franchised to sell in the UK in 1993 and has been selling 19,000 cars with the Accent as the major seller.

Labour costs in Korea have risen and were beginning to mirror our costs in Western Europe. Despite this, Hyundai retained its main manufacturing base in Korea and negotiated with the labour unions to soften the initial labour administration.

Quality is the main issue facing Hyundai automotive - its goal is to reach the level of quality achieved by Japanese car manufacturers. Hyundai employs 6,000 engineers, many of whom studied in the US and UK as design engineers. Hyundai also works closely with UK consulting engineers.

The company sees its primary strength in product development. Hyundai Motors is investing 5.2 per cent of its total sales revenue in R&D funds; however, this figure will gradually increase to 8 per cent by the 21st century.

Past administrators barred Samsung from carmaking in Korea, but three years ago it formed Samsung Motors and this February launched its first line of car models in Korea. Lee Dae Won, the vice-chairman and chief executive of Samsung Motors, says: "We are serious about producing top-quality cars."

It is believed that Samsung Motors will manufacture 500,000 cars a year by 2000 and that Europe will be the main overseas market. Samsung Motors and Nissan, the Japanese carmaker, signed a technology transfer contract in 1994 to help to start Samsung Motors.

Now that Samsung Motors will most likely build a plant in Europe in the future, it would be surprising if the relationship were not followed through with some possible collaboration at the Nissan plant in Sunderland.

Carol Allen meets Gillian Armstrong, the Australian director who dared to bring *Oscar and Lucinda* to the screen



Geoffrey Rush and Ralph Fiennes as Lucinda and Oscar. "It was an expensive project because it is period, involves shooting in two countries and needs complicated special effects," says Armstrong

Obsessed with misfits

The Australian director Gillian Armstrong is both forthright and articulate in conversation with a direct gaze. Her eyes, which demonstrate a keenness of vision and a determination to see things as they are, are also the eyes of a woman who has been in the film industry for 20 years.

"I've been on the project now for eight years," she says. But her involvement with the story goes back even further, to before her career in film. She was the first to read the book by Peter Carey, and she was the first to see the potential of the story. She was the first to see that it was a story about two people who were different from everyone else, and that they were people who were worth caring about.

and quickly regretted her decision, when a year later she heard that producer Robin Dalton had bought the rights for English director John Schlesinger. However, fate took a hand two years later. With Dalton still trying to raise the finance, Schlesinger had to drop out because of his other commitments. Dalton heard that Armstrong was interested and invited her to come on board as director.

She started work on the script with writer Laura Jones and began auditioning actors. One of them was Ralph Fiennes, then an up-and-coming young actor with the Royal Shakespeare Company. "I always felt it was important that Oscar was played by an English actor," says Armstrong, "because the story's very much about an Englishman coming to Australia. When I saw Ralph's test he really did stand out, and when I finally met him, several years later as it turned out, there was this sweet, charming person with a good heart who was Oscar personified. But the problem back then was, how on earth were we going to



raise the money on an unknown young actor? "It was an expensive project because it is period, involves shooting in two countries and needs complicated special effects. Eight years ago we were being told no one will go and see a period film. No one will go and see a film with an English actor. No one will go and see a film that's two hours long and no one will go and see a tragedy."

What I like about the writing is its originality and the slightly surreal, magical storytelling

GILLIAN ARMSTRONG

but the Australian Film Finance Corporation came to the rescue and *Oscar and Lucinda* finally went before the cameras in September 1996. It was the culmination of an eight-year odyssey comparable in its obsession to the journey Oscar undertakes in the book with the glass church floating on the river; a powerful visual metaphor for the relationship of Oscar and Lucinda.

"It's an incredibly filmic image," Armstrong agrees, "but it's there as part of the story, an unconscious expression of their love. It's something that really caught the imagination of Peter Carey's readers. Anyone who had ever read the book asked me how I was going to do the glass church and what did it look like."

During the time Armstrong was developing the film, she went to Hollywood to direct *Little Women*. Armstrong's ally there was another woman, Amy Pascal, a senior executive at Columbia, and now president of the studios. Armstrong remembers how Pascal, a great fan of Louise May Alcott's novel, supported her 100 per cent in making this new version of a much-filmed classic the way she wanted to.

"I really did feel that it was about time in the post-feminist Nineties that a book, which has been so important to so many generations of women, should be filmed by a woman from a woman's point of view. Louise Alcott was a woman ahead of her time and now that at last there are women running studios, producing, directing and writing films, that male view of *Little Women*, well done as those previous films were, is part of a different era."

international acclaim at the end of the Seventies with the prophetically titled *My Brilliant Career*. Married to a film editor and the mother of two daughters, she is now 47, a post-feminist who, one feels, sees the battle for equality as being long won and accepted as a fact of life.

She also blazed a trail for a whole new generation of Antipodean female film-makers: established ones such as Nadia Tass and New Zealand's Jane Campion, and young newcomers like Emma Kate Crogan, whose promising debut feature *Love and Other Catastrophes* was seen here last year, and Sue Brooks, Cherie Nowlan and Samantha Lang, all of whom had work featured in last month's Australian Film Festival at the Barbican.

As for Armstrong's own career, after the success of *Little Women* she turned down a number of big-budget offers in America to fulfil her dream of making *Oscar and Lucinda*. But she is confident that the door is still open. As she puts it: "I think you're given three or four films after a success before you're down the toilet again, so my standing is still fine."

Songs in the key of strife

"THE MOST promising vocal talent of the 1990s": "Baywatch looks and bebop inclinations"; "the fastest-rising star in jazz". With such advance notices, it was no surprise to find queues outside Ronnie Scott's to see the Canadian singer-pianist Diana Krall. No surprise, either, given that most jazz musicians seem supremely indifferent in matters of dress and appearance, to find the room falling silent on Krall's impressive entrance.

More shocking was that the room remained almost painfully hushed throughout the British Columbia's 70-minute set. Even Betty Carter rarely commands such rapt attention.

Backed — with instrumentation nodding to one of her

JAZZ
Diana Krall
Ronnie Scott's

chief influences, Nat King Cole — by guitarist Russell Malone and bassist Ben Wolfe, Krall elegantly repaid the audience's compliment by beginning with *I Love Being Here with You*.

Formalities over, she then got down to the serious business of the evening. *All or Nothing at All* may have sold a million in its most famous version, a 1943 reissue by Frank Sinatra and Harry James, but even the so-called Sultan of Swen could not have imbued the words "my heart may grow dizzy and fall" with more affecting apprehensiveness. Similarly, the lyrics of *You're Getting to be a Habit with Me* were given all the emotional force that such lines as "I just can't do without my supply" patently warrant.

Despite the fact that most of Krall's songs dealt with the pain and danger of love — both *The Boulevard of Broken Dreams* and *I Don't Stand a Ghost of a Chance with You* received almost luxuriantly tender readings — the overall atmosphere, thanks to Krall's droolieries between numbers and the band's infectious enjoyment, was oddly upbeat.

Song-based jazz has an intimate appeal lacking in much contemporary music, with its insistence on "attitude" and ironic distance from the expression of genuine sentiment. Krall, Malone and Wolfe, unassisted by the band, are simultaneously moving and entertaining without a hint of such posturing, and thus provide an evening of song-based jazz at its glorious best.

CHRIS PARKER

Left 'em shouting for Mor

POP
Morcheeba
Empire, W12

something were aware of their own, slowly shuffling feet. From then on, they were hooked.

To be fair, Morcheeba's slow start had its roots in some unfortunate sound problems. The band's core trio of singer Skye Edwards, guitarist Ross Godfrey and his DJ brother, Paul, had been swollen to a sprawling, 11-strong ensemble which included a string quartet, a brass player and a drummer. Inexplicably perched on a 10ft-high platform. Nevertheless, for some

time, bar Edwards's smoky vocals, the live sound was smothered by sections of the songs blaring out on backing tapes.

But by the time Morcheeba began *Blindfold*, the current single from excellent new album *Big Calm*, the capacity crowd had been entranced by Edwards. While her haunting, hypnotic vocals snaked through the song's sultry groove and layers of instrumentation, her trademark, dyed-scarlet Afro hair, piled high on top of her head, became a bobbing, visual focus for the show. Towards the end of the set, Edwards endeared herself further to the fans with a number of giggly speeches between tracks which revealed just how much fun she was having.

The performance finished with Ross Godfrey turning his guitar up loud for the first time all evening. The cheers for Morcheeba to play another encore, however, were louder still.

LISA VERRICO

All rise for an evening of delights

CONCERTS

Philharmonia
Gardiner
Festival Hall

With the pressure now on to make each orchestral concert a real event, the Philharmonia programmed what should have been a winner on Monday night: John Eliot Gardiner conducting, Maria João Pires playing Chopin's Piano Concerto No 1 in E Minor. Pires, however, sent a doctor's note with the result that we lost both pianist and concerto. But the substitute offered — Anne Queffelec playing Beethoven's Fourth Piano Concerto in G — turned out to be a satisfying alternative.

It began in electrifying fashion. For Elgar's *Introduction and Allegro for Strings*, the players (except cellos and basses, of course) all stood. The extra intensity generated, coupled with Gardiner's headlong plunge into the action within seconds of arriving on the podium, created a tremendous impact. On top of

this, he secured vibrant singing lines, generous flexibility of rhythm and splendidly incisive and phony the instrumental dialogue came thrillingly to life with the extra projection setting voices in high relief.

Notwithstanding a slightly blurred opening statement in the Beethoven, Queffelec hardly put a foot wrong thereafter. It would no doubt be a cliché to characterise the reading as one of Gallic elegance and charm, but that was how it seemed. Even the cadenza to the first movement was predominantly lyrical, while the fingerwork in the

finale was magical in its feather-light deftness. The Andante might indeed, as sometimes proposed, have been Orpheus taming the Furies, with Gardiner adopting a posture of rampant aggression, while Queffelec maintained an air of calm melancholy that finally won over the orchestra.

The opening bars of Dvořák's Symphony No 8 in G again seized the attention with a gloriously expansive announcement of the first theme on sonorous cellos (doubled by clarinets and horns). Folky rhythms were nicely pointed up with a light but springy bass and the two clarinets shone among much fine playing. All that marred it was unconsciously coarse blowing from the trumpets, which were allowed to unbalance the ensemble with their melodically insignificant cadential pedal points.

The third movement waltzed along delightfully, the strongly shaped string tune decorated with delicate twirls on woodwind. With portamento added on the tune's return, it was sheer joy. The brass were more properly

given their head in the finale and there was a finely judged passage of wistful recollection before an exuberantly dispatched coda.

BARRY MILLINGTON

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

JUSTIN MORTIMER

Age: 27

Profession: Painter.

In demand: He won first prize in the BP Portrait Award in 1991, and was commissioned by the National Portrait Gallery to paint Harold Pinter. His latest show is *Shopping d'London*, at the Blue Gallery until April 18. He is the latest artist to be commissioned to paint the Queen — for the Royal Society of Arts, where the result was unveiled the week before last.

Did it help, first prize in Cadbury's National Exhibition of Children's Art when he was 15? "Oh, it helped. The prize took me to the art towns of Italy for the first time."

Then the Slade. Did he feel at home there? "They thought I should. I was instantly labelled 'representational painter' and shunted into endless life classes."

But wasn't he a representational painter? "Yes, on the whole. But I like to paint pictures that make sense and carry a charge irrespective of subject-matter."

Difficult to avoid stereotyping if you are most famous as a royal portraitist? "I was asked to submit a portfolio to the Society. I was asked when they called me in and totally shattered when they told me it was the Queen herself."

Did he foresee a career as a



portrait painter to the great and the good? "I hope not, although it's useful that I can produce a likeness to pay the rent. But the new pictures are more abstract, drawing images of people from glossy magazines and my imagination, then dismembering them and putting the pieces against brilliant, plain-coloured backgrounds."

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

Life and lust begin at forte

IN RECENT years Anne Sofie von Otter has been cultivating two new partners: the fortepiano and the French song. They met at the Wigmore Hall on Sunday in a rare and alluring programme which began with the joys of spring and ended with the *Plaisir d'amour*.

The sturdy and muscular fortepiano chosen by Melvyn Tan was made in 1839 by Johann Streicher, whose father had crafted instruments for Beethoven. So, to make it feel at home before the somewhat risqué harlequinade which was to follow, von Otter and Tan treated the keyboard, and a capacity audience, to a group of songs by both Beethoven and Mendelssohn.

The voice settled during Mendelssohn's songs of Venetian gondolas and springtime wishes; and the fingers energetically worked out in their roles as serenade to Beethoven's Mozartian *Tintando si*, but the fingerwork in the

von Otter/Tan
Wigmore Hall

rio cor and as virtuoso set designer to his setting of the *Flea Song* from Goethe's *Finest*.

Already von Otter had shown her eagerness to perform in speech as well as in song. A patter of cool, facetious remarks greeted each group of songs, and made the second half of the evening even more like a succession of gleefully turned out party pieces by an excitable young girl. What, pray, were *Bergerettes*? "In my Swedish dictionary, they are referred to as songs of pastoral and/or erotic content, to be sung at dinner parties," she says. Well, Grove's Dictionary calls them "tender French airs of the 18th century... virtually indistinguishable from a *Brigitte*". A little confusing.

But the Swedish mezzo-soprano warmed to the ditties of shepherdess Phyllis who unwisely asked shepherd Sylvander for 30 sheep in return for one kiss; and Tan created garlands of accompanying musettes, drones and tambourins to adorn the voice.

At last von Otter's more serious war with the Gallic muse was revealed in a performance of Berlioz's *La mort d'Ophélie*. The final, aqueous vocalise was anticipated in the total identification of musical and verbal inflection throughout the four verses, and in the chaste white intensity of von Otter's voice.

HILARY FINCH

The London Cuckolds

by Edward Ravenscroft
adapted by
W. G. Sebald

"Sex, lies, and men & women behaving very badly indeed... Caroline Quentin smoulderingly funny performance" *Sunday Times*

"Classic farce... ingeniously plotted and deliciously protracted" *Financial Times*

"It's a hoot, prepare to get those titers out!" *Independent*

IRRESISTIBLE... A REAL TREAT

NT Royal National Theatre
Box Office 0171-452 3000
Best Call 0171-420 0900

AND ON TOUR

BATH	SHEFFIELD	NEWCASTLE	NOTTINGHAM
Theatre Royal 28 Apr - 2 May 01225 448844	Lyceum Theatre 5-9 May 0114 276 9922	Theatre Royal 16-20 June 0191 232 2061	Theatre Royal 23-27 June 0115 989 5555

Barry Millington profiles the young conductor with a radical agenda for his new posting

Meat for Hamburgers

Highly paid conductors who spend more of their time on planes than standing in front of orchestras have been identified as one of the scourges of the age. As fees rise and the air miles are clocked up, artistic standards fall, or so the argument goes.

Simon Rattle in Birmingham has long been an outstanding exception to the trend. But in the past few years the trend itself has been reversed. More and more rising stars have demonstrated a willingness to spend lengthy periods honing their own skills while developing those of their orchestra.

The latest to attract attention is the German conductor Ingo Metzmacher. He is in London this week, conducting the Bamberg Symphony Orchestra at the Festival Hall tonight, and then the London Philharmonic on Friday in the Turgenev Festival. But it is clearly his new appointment in Hamburg — music director of the Hamburg Philharmonic and, simultaneously, of the Opera House — that is going to catch his primary attention in the years to come.

Over the next five years, Metzmacher is committing no less than 75 per cent of his time to Hamburg. He will emerge for the odd guest conducting — for example with the Berlin and Munich Philharmonics and the Philadelphia Orchestra — but the four new productions a season in Hamburg, in addition to existing repertoire and a number of orchestral concerts there, will dominate his energies.

This kind of commitment is a new experience for Metzmacher: "From 1988 until last year I was a freelance. I travelled a lot and conducted more than 50 orchestras. Maybe these were my *Lehr- und Wanderjahre* (learning and

wandering years), as Goethe put it.

"I learnt a lot, of course. But now I have a family and when the offer came to go to Hamburg, I thought it was a wonderful chance. You can't develop anything if you're there for some weeks and then you go away again."

New repertoire is very much at the top of his agenda. "I centre every concert season around the most influential composers of the 20th century, starting with Debussy and

Rockaby, with Martin Robertson the soloist. The Turgenev phenomenon clearly holds a fascination for him. "You won't find a composer like that in Germany. In Germany they're still not able to break the chains of Darmstadt [the summer schools which were a Mecca of Modernism in the Fifties and Sixties]."

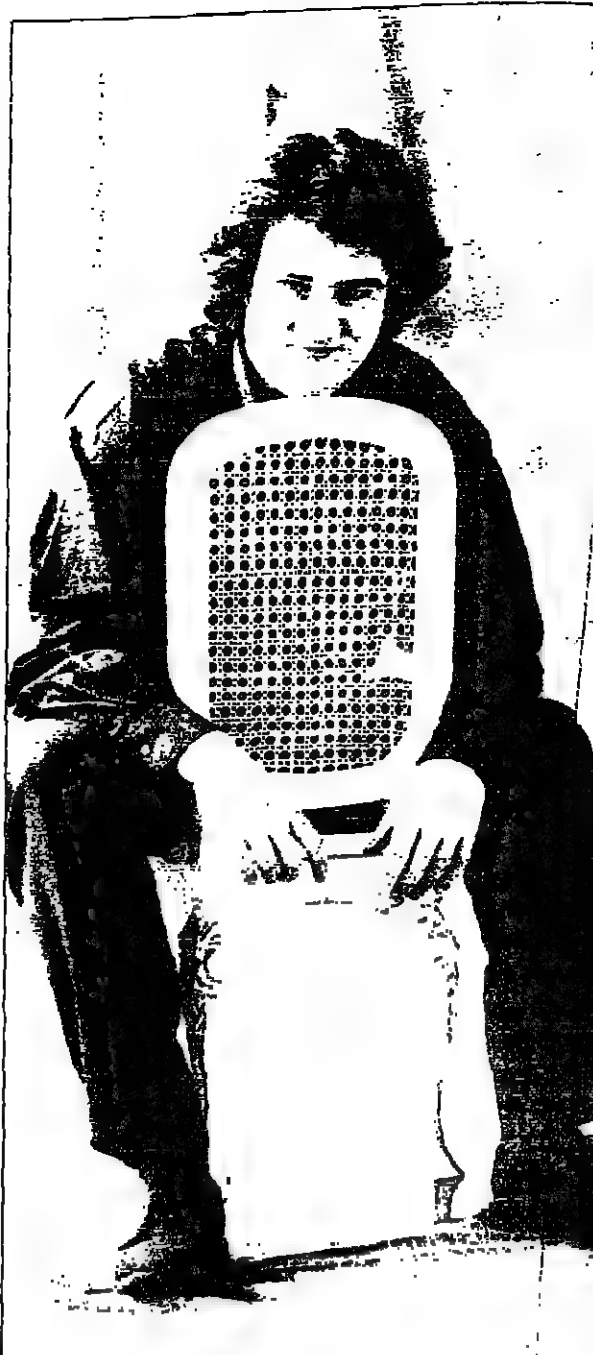
He was pleased to hear that the Turgenev was likely to attract a young audience and hopeful that they would enjoy it: "It's not music you have to explain a lot about. It speaks very directly, and that's good."

A composer with whom Metzmacher feels a special empathy is Hans Werner Henze, whose Ninth Symphony has just been released on CD by EMI. The symphony is a choral one, the text being based on the novel *Das siebte Kreuz* (The Seventh Cross) by Anna Seghers, a bleak account of an attempted escape from a Nazi concentration camp.

To my suggestion that Henze's setting graphically reflects the terror of the subject, Metzmacher replies: "Have you read the book? It's a very exciting book, a real thriller. I think that apart from the violence and the fear there's a very emotional part which I don't know from other pieces of Henze. I think it has a lot to do with his relation to Germany, the country he left more than 40 years ago."

"For me it was wonderful to do this piece because when I was in my twenties I was really interested in finding my identity as a German, and the only point I could find was the German Resistance — the people who tried to resist this terror. I think for Henze too this is a personal piece of music about himself. It has a lot to do with death."

Ingo Metzmacher conducts at the Festival Hall (0171-460 4442) tonight and Friday



Ingo Metzmacher, recently appointed music director of the Hamburg Opera and Philharmonic Orchestra

Austere home for serialist master

Hilary Finch finds the new Schoenberg Center in Vienna as earnest as its subject

Earth, revealed it, in the composer's words, as "an illusion that this pure human among human beings was conceivable". This was, indeed, to be Schoenberg's last tonal work.

In the concert it was followed by a lucid performance of *Verklärte Nacht* in its 1943 arrangement for string orchestra, and then by the 1912 atonal monodrama *Erwartung*, with the soprano Evelyn Herzig as the embodiment of its Expressionist anguish.

And there was plenty of anguish still to come. The transfer of the Schoenberg Institute in Los Angeles to the new Center in Vienna followed years of increasing acrimony between Schoenberg's family and the University of Southern California, where the

composer had taught. The parties were unable to resolve differences over how exclusive the Institute should be, and who should hold the archive material's copyright. Finally, the family sued for breach of contract, the university terminated its agreement and the collection was withdrawn.

One of the family's main grievances was the use of the Institute by the university music department for concerts of every type of music, including, perhaps the thought, jazz. It is certainly difficult to imagine any such misuse occurring in the austere new concert space in Vienna. Schoenberg Center, a steel-grey arrowhead of metal and wood, the 200-seater hall splits its ever-diverging audience down the middle and forcefully directs ear and

eye to the small stage at the apex of its V-form. The acoustic, clear and excitingly immediate, is little short of perfection for both chamber music and voice, as the Hagen Quartet's outstanding performance of Schoenberg's Second and Third String Quartets showed.

That said, I find the entire C&S, a state-of-the-art nucleus of office, library, bookshop and exhibition space, oppressively severe. Whether intentionally or not, it epitomises the rigour, the relentless logic of Schoenberg's search for truth: something, too, of his hatred of triviality, superficiality and capriciousness is revealed in the Center's multimedia exhibition. Here, earphones, on computer screen and recitilinear display case is Schoenberg as lecturer, as pianist, as composer, as bookkeeper and compulsive inventor.

The exhibition (until June 21) offers a conscientious overview of a life and the work. But if the Center is to be as accessible to the public as the scholar, it will have to realise, for Schoenberg's heart: that people just think for themselves, and that his work should be truly understood. Arnold Schoenberg Center, Zuckergasse 1, 1020 Vienna (00 43 1 712 182)

LONDON

KATHLEEN BATTLE The temperamental American diva makes a rare visit to these shores for a celebratory recital featuring songs by Dowland, Purcell, Handel, Haydn and Fauré, followed by a selection of songs from the piano by Robert Schumann, Brahms, Liszt, Debussy and Fauré. Tickets £10-15. Venue: Wigmore Hall, Wigmore Street, W1 (0171-935 2141). Tonight, 7.30pm.

CANDIDA Paula Winton, Miles Richardson and Sarah Kibrikke. Candida's songs are a mix of love, art and religion. New End, 27 New End, Hampstead NW3 0171-794 0029. Preview tonight, 7.30pm. Opens tomorrow, 7.30pm. Then Tue-Sat, 7.30pm. Mat Sat and Sun, 3.30pm. Until April 26.

SONGS OF THE 90s Tonight's recital by the fine mezzo-soprano Sarah Vane. Includes the world premiere of a new work by the American composer, John Gumbert, commissioned by the singer herself. Other composers featured are Wolf, Haydn, Debussy and Fauré. The evening concludes with a section titled The Naughty Nineties, offering songs from the music hall tradition. Matinee at the National Theatre, 11th April, 2.30pm.

WILSON The Royal Scottish National Orchestra under its principal conductor, Alexander Lash, celebrates the centenary of the composer's birth with a performance of his

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Mark Hargreaves

ROMANTIC Third Symphony The work is dedicated to Tchaikovsky's Rocoza Variations, and Richard Strauss's symphonic poem Don Quixote, played by the noted Russian cellist Alexander Rudin. There are repeat concerts in Glasgow and Edinburgh on Saturday and Sunday. Venue: Royal Albert Hall, 11th April, 7.30pm.

BIRMINGHAM Seleni Orm, principal conductor elect of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, leads the orchestra in a concert featuring

THE SOPRANO Kathleen Battle the Barbican

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

House full, returns only
Some seats available
Seeds at all prices

THE JUDAS KISS Linn Lindorff makes her London stage debut playing Oscar Wilde, with Tom Hollander as Lord Alfred Douglas. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

BRIEF LIVES Michael Williams stars John Aubrey's witty and clever play, set in the world of the one-man play. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

CHICAGO Revised version of the celebrated Kander & Ebb musical, directed by Walter Bobbie. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

A DELICATE BALANCE Evelyn Adams starring John Aubrey's witty and clever play, set in the world of the one-man play. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

PETER PAN Ian McKellen plays Hook and Mr Darling, with David Evans as Peter Pan. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

THE JUDAS KISS Linn Lindorff makes her London stage debut playing Oscar Wilde, with Tom Hollander as Lord Alfred Douglas. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

BRIEF LIVES Michael Williams stars John Aubrey's witty and clever play, set in the world of the one-man play. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

CHICAGO Revised version of the celebrated Kander & Ebb musical, directed by Walter Bobbie. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

A DELICATE BALANCE Evelyn Adams starring John Aubrey's witty and clever play, set in the world of the one-man play. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

PETER PAN Ian McKellen plays Hook and Mr Darling, with David Evans as Peter Pan. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

THE JUDAS KISS Linn Lindorff makes her London stage debut playing Oscar Wilde, with Tom Hollander as Lord Alfred Douglas. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

BRIEF LIVES Michael Williams stars John Aubrey's witty and clever play, set in the world of the one-man play. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

CHICAGO Revised version of the celebrated Kander & Ebb musical, directed by Walter Bobbie. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

A DELICATE BALANCE Evelyn Adams starring John Aubrey's witty and clever play, set in the world of the one-man play. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

PETER PAN Ian McKellen plays Hook and Mr Darling, with David Evans as Peter Pan. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

THE JUDAS KISS Linn Lindorff makes her London stage debut playing Oscar Wilde, with Tom Hollander as Lord Alfred Douglas. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

BRIEF LIVES Michael Williams stars John Aubrey's witty and clever play, set in the world of the one-man play. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

CHICAGO Revised version of the celebrated Kander & Ebb musical, directed by Walter Bobbie. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

A DELICATE BALANCE Evelyn Adams starring John Aubrey's witty and clever play, set in the world of the one-man play. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

PETER PAN Ian McKellen plays Hook and Mr Darling, with David Evans as Peter Pan. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

THE JUDAS KISS Linn Lindorff makes her London stage debut playing Oscar Wilde, with Tom Hollander as Lord Alfred Douglas. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

BRIEF LIVES Michael Williams stars John Aubrey's witty and clever play, set in the world of the one-man play. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

CHICAGO Revised version of the celebrated Kander & Ebb musical, directed by Walter Bobbie. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

A DELICATE BALANCE Evelyn Adams starring John Aubrey's witty and clever play, set in the world of the one-man play. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

PETER PAN Ian McKellen plays Hook and Mr Darling, with David Evans as Peter Pan. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

THE JUDAS KISS Linn Lindorff makes her London stage debut playing Oscar Wilde, with Tom Hollander as Lord Alfred Douglas. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

BRIEF LIVES Michael Williams stars John Aubrey's witty and clever play, set in the world of the one-man play. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

CHICAGO Revised version of the celebrated Kander & Ebb musical, directed by Walter Bobbie. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

A DELICATE BALANCE Evelyn Adams starring John Aubrey's witty and clever play, set in the world of the one-man play. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

PETER PAN Ian McKellen plays Hook and Mr Darling, with David Evans as Peter Pan. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

THE JUDAS KISS Linn Lindorff makes her London stage debut playing Oscar Wilde, with Tom Hollander as Lord Alfred Douglas. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

BRIEF LIVES Michael Williams stars John Aubrey's witty and clever play, set in the world of the one-man play. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

CHICAGO Revised version of the celebrated Kander & Ebb musical, directed by Walter Bobbie. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

A DELICATE BALANCE Evelyn Adams starring John Aubrey's witty and clever play, set in the world of the one-man play. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

PETER PAN Ian McKellen plays Hook and Mr Darling, with David Evans as Peter Pan. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

THE JUDAS KISS Linn Lindorff makes her London stage debut playing Oscar Wilde, with Tom Hollander as Lord Alfred Douglas. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

BRIEF LIVES Michael Williams stars John Aubrey's witty and clever play, set in the world of the one-man play. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

CHICAGO Revised version of the celebrated Kander & Ebb musical, directed by Walter Bobbie. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

A DELICATE BALANCE Evelyn Adams starring John Aubrey's witty and clever play, set in the world of the one-man play. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

PETER PAN Ian McKellen plays Hook and Mr Darling, with David Evans as Peter Pan. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

ROMANTIC Third Symphony The work is dedicated to Tchaikovsky's Rocoza Variations, and Richard Strauss's symphonic poem Don Quixote, played by the noted Russian cellist Alexander Rudin. There are repeat concerts in Glasgow and Edinburgh on Saturday and Sunday. Venue: Royal Albert Hall, 11th April, 7.30pm.

BIRMINGHAM Seleni Orm, principal conductor elect of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, leads the orchestra in a concert featuring

THE SOPRANO Kathleen Battle the Barbican

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

House full, returns only
Some seats available
Seeds at all prices

THE JUDAS KISS Linn Lindorff makes her London stage debut playing Oscar Wilde, with Tom Hollander as Lord Alfred Douglas. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

BRIEF LIVES Michael Williams stars John Aubrey's witty and clever play, set in the world of the one-man play. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

CHICAGO Revised version of the celebrated Kander & Ebb musical, directed by Walter Bobbie. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

A DELICATE BALANCE Evelyn Adams starring John Aubrey's witty and clever play, set in the world of the one-man play. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

PETER PAN Ian McKellen plays Hook and Mr Darling, with David Evans as Peter Pan. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

THE JUDAS KISS Linn Lindorff makes her London stage debut playing Oscar Wilde, with Tom Hollander as Lord Alfred Douglas. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

BRIEF LIVES Michael Williams stars John Aubrey's witty and clever play, set in the world of the one-man play. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

CHICAGO Revised version of the celebrated Kander & Ebb musical, directed by Walter Bobbie. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

A DELICATE BALANCE Evelyn Adams starring John Aubrey's witty and clever play, set in the world of the one-man play. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

PETER PAN Ian McKellen plays Hook and Mr Darling, with David Evans as Peter Pan. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

THE JUDAS KISS Linn Lindorff makes her London stage debut playing Oscar Wilde, with Tom Hollander as Lord Alfred Douglas. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

BRIEF LIVES Michael Williams stars John Aubrey's witty and clever play, set in the world of the one-man play. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

CHICAGO Revised version of the celebrated Kander & Ebb musical, directed by Walter Bobbie. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

A DELICATE BALANCE Evelyn Adams starring John Aubrey's witty and clever play, set in the world of the one-man play. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

PETER PAN Ian McKellen plays Hook and Mr Darling, with David Evans as Peter Pan. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

THE JUDAS KISS Linn Lindorff makes her London stage debut playing Oscar Wilde, with Tom Hollander as Lord Alfred Douglas. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

BRIEF LIVES Michael Williams stars John Aubrey's witty and clever play, set in the world of the one-man play. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

CHICAGO Revised version of the celebrated Kander & Ebb musical, directed by Walter Bobbie. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

A DELICATE BALANCE Evelyn Adams starring John Aubrey's witty and clever play, set in the world of the one-man play. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

PETER PAN Ian McKellen plays Hook and Mr Darling, with David Evans as Peter Pan. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

THE JUDAS KISS Linn Lindorff makes her London stage debut playing Oscar Wilde, with Tom Hollander as Lord Alfred Douglas. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

BRIEF LIVES Michael Williams stars John Aubrey's witty and clever play, set in the world of the one-man play. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

CHICAGO Revised version of the celebrated Kander & Ebb musical, directed by Walter Bobbie. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

A DELICATE BALANCE Evelyn Adams starring John Aubrey's witty and clever play, set in the world of the one-man play. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

PETER PAN Ian McKellen plays Hook and Mr Darling, with David Evans as Peter Pan. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

THE JUDAS KISS Linn Lindorff makes her London stage debut playing Oscar Wilde, with Tom Hollander as Lord Alfred Douglas. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

BRIEF LIVES Michael Williams stars John Aubrey's witty and clever play, set in the world of the one-man play. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

CHICAGO Revised version of the celebrated Kander & Ebb musical, directed by Walter Bobbie. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

A DELICATE BALANCE Evelyn Adams starring John Aubrey's witty and clever play, set in the world of the one-man play. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

PETER PAN Ian McKellen plays Hook and Mr Darling, with David Evans as Peter Pan. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

THE JUDAS KISS Linn Lindorff makes her London stage debut playing Oscar Wilde, with Tom Hollander as Lord Alfred Douglas. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

BRIEF LIVES Michael Williams stars John Aubrey's witty and clever play, set in the world of the one-man play. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

CHICAGO Revised version of the celebrated Kander & Ebb musical, directed by Walter Bobbie. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

A DELICATE BALANCE Evelyn Adams starring John Aubrey's witty and clever play, set in the world of the one-man play. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

PETER PAN Ian McKellen plays Hook and Mr Darling, with David Evans as Peter Pan. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

THE JUDAS KISS Linn Lindorff makes her London stage debut playing Oscar Wilde, with Tom Hollander as Lord Alfred Douglas. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

BRIEF LIVES Michael Williams stars John Aubrey's witty and clever play, set in the world of the one-man play. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

CHICAGO Revised version of the celebrated Kander & Ebb musical, directed by Walter Bobbie. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

A DELICATE BALANCE Evelyn Adams starring John Aubrey's witty and clever play, set in the world of the one-man play. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

PETER PAN Ian McKellen plays Hook and Mr Darling, with David Evans as Peter Pan. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

ROMANTIC Third Symphony The work is dedicated to Tchaikovsky's Rocoza Variations, and Richard Strauss's symphonic poem Don Quixote, played by the noted Russian cellist Alexander Rudin. There are repeat concerts in Glasgow and Edinburgh on Saturday and Sunday. Venue: Royal Albert Hall, 11th April, 7.30pm.

BIRMINGHAM Seleni Orm, principal conductor elect of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, leads the orchestra in a concert featuring

THE SOPRANO Kathleen Battle the Barbican

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

House full, returns only
Some seats available
Seeds at all prices

THE JUDAS KISS Linn Lindorff makes her London stage debut playing Oscar Wilde, with Tom Hollander as Lord Alfred Douglas. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

BRIEF LIVES Michael Williams stars John Aubrey's witty and clever play, set in the world of the one-man play. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

CHICAGO Revised version of the celebrated Kander & Ebb musical, directed by Walter Bobbie. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

A DELICATE BALANCE Evelyn Adams starring John Aubrey's witty and clever play, set in the world of the one-man play. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

PETER PAN Ian McKellen plays Hook and Mr Darling, with David Evans as Peter Pan. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

THE JUDAS KISS Linn Lindorff makes her London stage debut playing Oscar Wilde, with Tom Hollander as Lord Alfred Douglas. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

BRIEF LIVES Michael Williams stars John Aubrey's witty and clever play, set in the world of the one-man play. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

CHICAGO Revised version of the celebrated Kander & Ebb musical, directed by Walter Bobbie. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

A DELICATE BALANCE Evelyn Adams starring John Aubrey's witty and clever play, set in the world of the one-man play. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

PETER PAN Ian McKellen plays Hook and Mr Darling, with David Evans as Peter Pan. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

THE JUDAS KISS Linn Lindorff makes her London stage debut playing Oscar Wilde, with Tom Hollander as Lord Alfred Douglas. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

BRIEF LIVES Michael Williams stars John Aubrey's witty and clever play, set in the world of the one-man play. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

CHICAGO Revised version of the celebrated Kander & Ebb musical, directed by Walter Bobbie. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

A DELICATE BALANCE Evelyn Adams starring John Aubrey's witty and clever play, set in the world of the one-man play. Venue: Royal National Theatre, 11th April, 7.30pm.

It's not the Friel thing

Correct me if I have missed some confessional encounter in the Irish Journal of Philology, but Brian Friel has always shirked interviews, preferring to let his plays do the talking. And talk they sometimes have, openly or obliquely, about his own trade. Remember *Translations*, which involved the English suppression of the Irish language? Remember *Faith Healer*, about a peripatetic shaman who some nights produced miracles and other nights banalities? There was a nice metaphor for the erratic, unpredictable power of the dramatist.

But I cannot remember a Friel play that has so directly addressed the worries, confusions, vanities and follies of the writer as *Give Me Your Answer, Do!* It was not a great success in Dublin last year, by some accounts because the author himself unwisely chose to direct it. As capably restaged by Robin Lefevre, and performed by a strong cast, it seems to me well worth bringing to Britain: yet there is still something not-quite-satisfactory about it. It is funny and shrewd and over-obvious and oddly frustrating.

The protagonist is Tom Connolly, a blocked novelist living in growing poverty in a mouldering manse in the Irish outback. Think of an amalgam of a boiled shrimp and Lord Longford, and you have the tuffy, rumpled look that Niall Buggy brings to the role, but scarcely the frazzled, bashful, earnest, angry and entirely excellent performance he proceeds to give. When we meet him he is visiting a hospital, where he spins wild fantasies for his daughter, a terminal headache who rocks, gapes and hears nothing. Then it's back home to his wife, Geraldine James's Daisy, whom he has left to look after his in-laws, and the young, neurotic (Aineir Hughes) who may solve his financial woes by buying his archives for some-

Give Me Your Answer, Do!
Hampstead

Texas campus. That is what has happened to the successful fellow novelist who now drops by with wife in tow. With Gawn Grainger's Garret Fitzmaurice exuding public bonhomie and private bitchiness — for him, Tom is at best "a major minor writer" — and Sorcha Cusack barely disguising her contempt for a husband she feels has bartered his art for popularity, both the comic and the dramatic temperature increase.

Add John Woodvine as Daisy's father, a dandified palm-court pianist subject to episodes of kleptomania, and Margaret Tizack as his doughty, retired-doctor wife, and you have a gloriously incongruous cross-section boozily slumped amid the honey-and-green walls of Elizabeth Ascroft's outdoors set.

Yet I found myself asking questions as I chuckled. Doesn't the Fitzmaurices' mutual sniping veer too near caricature? Isn't James's role underwritten? What are we to make of the revelation that, just after learning of his daughter's disability, Tom wrote and suppressed two pornographic novels? How seriously can we take his wife's last-moment declaration that he must reject Texas's gold because it would represent public acceptance and deprive him of the self-doubt necessary to his art?

Friel scholars will doubtless scour the text for cryptic self-revelation and doubtless find it. But my business is the dramatic event. It amuses, it grips, but *Translations* was more intellectually complete. *Dancing at Lughnasa* more moving. Categorise the play as major minor Friel.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE



Gawn Grainger and Sorcha Cusack in Brian Friel's "funny and shrewd and over-obvious and oddly frustrating" play

Painful home truths from Cuba

THE Cuban dramatist José Triana wrote this fierce, intricate piece in 1964, five years after Castro ousted Batista, and though at first it won him acclaim and awards, it eventually got him into trouble and sent him into exile. *Benedict Nightingale* writes. His evocation of a crazed, chaotic house in which the children indulge in endless fantasies of murdering the cruel parents they paradoxically love, and maybe actually do so, presumably came to seem as much about the current Father of the Nation as the old, discredited one.

But even in London the audience for Latin American drama about Latin American problems cannot be large, so there needs to be some other reason for Ian Brown's revival of the play than its political ramifications. And, thanks to BackChat Theatre's robust acting, that is not difficult to discern. Here, the play involves what it seems to involve. The names of the three grown-up children may be Hispanic — Lalo, Beba, Cusa — but they are trapped, emotionally and probably physically, in the sort of family

That's Cuba!
Lyric Studio
Hampstead

that obsesses, crushes, and turns people into zombies, killers or schizophrenics. You do not find such households only in Cuba.

Triana, who now lives in Paris, is clearly indebted to the Genet of *The Maids*, and maybe to the R.D. Laing of *The Divided Self* as well. From the start it is evident that Peter Sullivan's callow, raging Lalo, who claims his parents' mutilated bodies are rotting just outside the long, thin corridor where the play is set, is playing life-games with his sisters, Joanna Foster's Beba and Miranda Foster's Cusa. They spend so long a time arguing about the need — shower rooms, furniture and themselves, and wear, and more interestingly, start to act out exemplary scenes from family life.

This is, I suppose, standard domestic-

disaster stuff, but with the two Fosters displaying particular versatility and power, it banges pretty strongly round the Lyric Studio. Dad contemptuously bullies and beats Lalo. Mum is bitter and treacherous. Both keep emphasising how much they have sacrificed for children they never wanted. All three performers cross genders and swap roles as they move on to the investigation and trial they imagine following the murder. And in the courtroom they reincarnate their parents again, and show what effect a shallow, poverty-dogged marriage had upon them.

This does not amount to a lot more than suggesting how ordinary lovelessness and everyday resentments grew into serious hatred; but, again, the company's execution is more impressive than the author's conception. A boy and his two sisters are trying to understand and show why they themselves ended up victims — and managing to admit that, yes, they care for the poor, mangled monsters who created and abused them. It's a denouement I found worth the wait.

MUSIC THEATRE: Great Sondheim in London; a sad first in Manchester

Sharp as a razor

Sweeney Todd
Queen Elizabeth Hall

THERE'S no place like London, sings Sweeney Todd sardonically in Sondheim's musical thriller about the Demon Barber of Fleet Street. So perhaps it was fitting that the piece should visit the Queen Elizabeth Hall both as a postscript to Opera North's tour, and as part of the exploration of 1970s music in the Towards the Millennium series. It was good in this hypnotic performance to be reminded that alongside the many bleak works of that decade there were some at once deadly serious and funny.

Sondheim's most ambitious score is great music-theatre, a bit of opera, a bit of musical, a bit of neither. *Sweeney Todd* is certainly as powerful as any opera written during the 1970s, even if in this full version played by Opera North it has its longeurs. While the arguments continue over whether it is best sung by opera or showbiz voices, Op-

era North's casting is a canny mix with the emphasis, unsurprisingly, on the operatic side.

Not that there was a shortage of drama. With his cast but not chorus wearing Kevin Knight's Victorian costumes, David McVicar moved the characters around effectively. When the show was new in Leeds ten weeks ago, Rodney Milnes reported that it was all a little too serious, but on Monday the performers were playing up all the macabre humour. James Holmes's conducting, too, must have lightened and tightened up here he got everything out of the score with flexibility and drive.

A dark-voiced Steven Page was splendidly incisive in the title role, and developed his tragic, vengeance-seeking figure movingly. Heading the non-operatic contingent, Beverley Klein offered sharp characterisation as a hard-bitten Mrs Lovett. Daniel Broad was fine but not quite upbeat enough as the musical-comedy sailor Anthony. Lucy Schaefer's bright Johanna, Gillian Kirkpatrick's Beggar Woman, Malcolm Rivers's Judge and Adrian Thompson's Pirelli also stood out, but everyone delivered Sondheim's brilliant lyrics with outstanding clarity.

JOHN ALLISON

Three's a cloud

RNCM Triple Bill
Manchester

IF IT is the function of a conservatoire to prepare its students for all aspects of professional life, the Royal Northern College of Music is only doing its job. It would have been a kindness, however, to warn the public that its latest Music Theatre Season might be an exercise in preparing for the worst — in giving a competent bass a lesson in singing opposite a caricature of a tenor, in training a cast to survive an embarrassing production, and in giving musicians experience of ignoring the inferior quality of the material and just getting on with it.

The agony of taking part in the first performance of *The Bridge* can only have been aggravated by the knowledge that the composer had been awarded the £10,000 Stephen Oliver Prize for Contemporary Opera. How, they must have asked themselves as they devoted their energies to Tim Benjamin's fifth-form score

and David Edgar's sixth-form libretto, could that have happened? And how can the International Society for Contemporary Music face up to presenting a repeat performance of this same work in Manchester next month? The ISCM should at least be able to ensure that the companion to *The Bridge*, Stephen Oliver's *Exposition of a Picture*, is adequately cast. The college had problems here, since neither of the two singers involved corresponded with the names in the programme. Even so, if they had time to learn the words, they should also have been able to make them audible and to follow at least an approximation of the admittedly difficult vocal line.

The central item in the RNCM programme is *Busqueda*, James MacMillan's expression of solidarity with the Mothers of the Disappeared. Since it is clearly more a concert piece than a theatre piece, Jennifer Hamilton would have been well advised to restrict movement to a minimum. Still, one could switch off the visuals and concentrate on words well spoken by Sarah Cox and most effectively integrated with the score under the direction of Clark Rundell.

GERALD LARNER

Worth repeating

SCOTT is announcing the start of *Flesh*: "And all you will witness tonight, boys and babes, will be live, live, there are no reruns, this is the real thing." This is a generation that has grown up on reruns, that dances to pre-recorded music, that watches pre-recorded shows on TV, that wears clothes pre-selected to some high street fashion template, that buys and dances in a frenzy for a vain chance of encountering the real thing. To frustrated consumers of pre-packaged culture, Scott's offer sounds pretty special.

Swansea-based Frantic Assembly is pretty special, but the offer of the real thing is by no means as simple as it sounds. The company's *Generation Trilogy: Klub, Flesh* and *Zero* looks and sounds stunning. The music is high-energy club fodder, the dancing is breathtaking, the chat is upfront and personal.

Frantic's genius is that it can create an illusion of absolute honesty. Only through seeing parts of the trilogy together does any concept of characterisation become apparent, and even then it feels rather than one has exposed a lie than been party to acts of theatre. In

The Generation Trilogy
BAC, SW11

Flesh, Calt gives a straight, unselfpitying account of how she fell into prostitution to pay her way through drama school; in *Zero* she discusses living with her mum and her six-year-old daughter — the stories do not tally, but the illusion is hard to let go of.

In apparently offering up something very personal, the company has managed to tap into specific, but universal themes. By being party to their confessions and self-exploration, the audience is a part of the show.

The Generation Trilogy is a study of capitalism that asks how much of yourself you will use to get what you want. This pitches it directly against Mark Ravenhill's *Shopping*, but while he creates a rather excluding spectacle of his characters' struggle, Frantic brings the audience into the drama with them, so that we share in their sense of hope and frustration.

HETTIE JUDAH

Lost in space

THERE is an enormous turtle swimming through outer space with a city on its back. The city's mighty walls, pitted with gargoyles and doorways, revolve. Here fallen stars such as Paul Darrow, who have failed to make much more of their terrestrial careers on sci-fi programmes like *Blake's Seven* find themselves among hard-drinking dwarfs, thieves, an orange-utan librarian, corrupt priests and Yorkshiremen dressed as monks.

In charge of the city's police force, Darrow's Captain Vimes stalks the streets like a disgruntled Bogart. The villain and ambitious director of this doomed satellite, Peter Benedict, is burning his way to power with the help of a dragon.

And you think Peter Mandelson is out of touch? Ever get the feeling that you've never quite connected with sci-fi? Not having read any of Terry Pratchett's cult *Discworld* novels, I found swaths of in-jokes ghosting past me.

The spectacle is propelled by magnificent cartoon scenery rather than by anything as fundamental as a plot. Apart

Guard! Guard!
Hackney Empire

from Iain Stirling's ginger-haired, 6ft 6in dwarf, Lance Constable Carrot, nobody seems to care much whom Peter Yapp's giant Grim Reaper steals away.

But if the narrative thread is appalling, the saving grace of Geoffrey Cuth's adaptation is a naïf sense of humour. Looking for ways to rid the city of the dragon (a large pair of red eyes), Vimes gets involved with Roz McCutcheon's stout, upper-crust Lady Ramkin, who breeds small dragons. There's nothing more exhilarating than seeing a couple of dragons copulate in the air like buzz-saws, she says.

There are some sublime moments of comic melodrama when Lady Ramkin is threatened with imprisonment by the dark forces. "Do you feel lucky?" asks Vimes, pointing a small but volatile rubber dragon at a henchman. But these moments, alas, are too few to save the Universe.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER

AN EXCLUSIVE PRIZE DRAW THE TIMES

FOUR HONDAS TO BE WON



To celebrate Honda's 50th anniversary, *The Times* offers readers the chance to win one of four sensational bikes.

THE PRIZES ARE:

- ONE OF TWO HONDA HORNETS
- A HONDA VTR 1000 FIRESTORM AND
- A HONDA VT750C SHADOW

Honda created the modern superbike era and the FireStorm (above) was their first supersports V-twin. Power, handling and rideability, the nucleus of which is the V-twin power plant, is for many the epitome of the motorcycling spirit. The Honda FireStorm appeals to riders of all levels of skill and experience through its blend of performance, neutral but quick steering, and inexhaustible supply of torque through the rev range.



HOW TO ENTER

Collect all six differently numbered tokens published in *The Times* this week and attach them to the prize draw entry form which will appear on Saturday. You can enter as many times as you wish but no photocopied tokens or entry forms will be accepted. The closing date for entries is Tuesday April 21, 1998. Entrants should be over 18. The bikes come with six months' road tax but no insurance. The winners will collect their prizes from their local Honda dealer.

For information about Honda Bikes, call 0345 585 570



THERE IS STILL A CHANCE TO WIN A TOYOTA — SEE PAGE 37

CHANGING TIMES

FOOTBALL

Saunders aims to gain revenge by felling Forest

By Richard Hobson

DEAN SAUNDERS described his time with Nottingham Forest as the most frustrating of his career. Such was the speed of his fall from favour that he was allowed to leave the City Ground on a free transfer last December, just three months after Forest had rejected a bid of £500,000 from Everton.

Sheffield United have provided the Wales international with the fresh start that he required desperately and tonight, returning to the City Ground for a Nationwide League first division game, he is entitled to feel he has a point to prove to Dave Bassett, the Forest manager.

Saunders marked his return to the Sheffield side after a month out with a hamstring problem by scoring the winning goal against Port Vale last Saturday. Whether cutting in from the right side of midfield or enjoying a free role behind the front two, a rejuvenated Saunders is likely to provide the greatest threat not only to Forest but also to Newcastle United in the FA Cup semi-final at Old Trafford on Sunday.



Saunders rejuvenated

"They are both very important games for different reasons, but there is no point having a good Cup run and then letting things slip in the league," Saunders said. His opinion is shared by Steve Thompson, the manager.

Sheffield occupy sixth place, three points ahead of Birmingham City, having played three games fewer. A greater challenge for the final play-off spot is expected from Wolverhampton Wanderers, who visit Queens Park Rangers tonight and also have the small matter of a Cup semi-

final, against Arsenal, to consider.

Thompson's biggest doubt surrounds Alan Kelly, the Ireland goalkeeper, who saved three penalties in the shoot-out against Coventry City in the quarter-final replay. Kelly injured ribs against Port Vale while David Holdsworth, the captain, has a throat infection. Thompson believes that, in Kelly and Simon Tracey, he has the best pair of goalkeepers in the league; his theory may be put to the test tonight.

Forest, the leaders, are in the middle of three testing fixtures that will influence heavily whether they secure an automatic return to the FA Cup Premiership or enter the play-offs. They lost 4-2 to Charlton Athletic on Saturday and, after Sheffield, entertain Ipswich Town on Sunday.

There is a strange pessimism within Nottingham over their prospects. Even those supporters who believe they will go up speak darkly of immediate relegation. Equally, while Pierre van Hooijdonk and Kevin Campbell have scored 50 goals between them this season, their unproven record in the top flight is already a matter for concern.

Bassett is considering replacing Scott Gemmill with Ian Woan in midfield — a week after Gemmill played for Scotland in the international against Denmark. "Scott has not been himself in recent matches and it could be time for a reshuffle," Bassett said.

Wolves are still awaiting international clearance for David Connolly, the Ireland striker signed from Feyenoord last week. Mixu Paatelainen rejected a loan move to Hibernian yesterday, but Mark McGhee, the manager, is inclined to stick with a forward partnership of Don Goodman and Steve Claridge, providing Goodman recovers from Achilles tendon trouble.

McGhee believes that his side must win six of their last eight games to reach the play-offs. He said: "If we lose at QPR we will have to do something very, very special to win promotion."

Villa's change of mind puts Palace at risk

By Our Sports Staff

ASTON Villa have expressed a late interest in competing in the InterToto Cup this summer, a decision that could cost Crystal Palace their place in the competition.

When the Premier League asked for volunteers to enter the much-maligned tournament, which can lead to entry into the UEFA Cup, only Palace expressed a desire to take part and only one place was requested. However, after being knocked out of the UEFA Cup by Atlético Madrid, Villa have had a change of heart. The Football Association, which puts the nomination forward, must now resolve the problem, which will also be discussed by UEFA's InterToto committee.

Glenn Hoddle has not received any offers to return to club management and remains committed to winning the World Cup for England, his agent insisted yesterday.

Dennis Roach said that, contrary to reports, there had been no contact between the England coach and AS Monaco, where he spent three years as a player and who had been said to want him as successor to Jean Tigana should he become coach to the France national side.

Glenn is under contract with the Football Association until the year 2000, when he will take England into the European championships, and hopefully longer than that," Roach said.

ICE SKATING

Eldredge eyes home gold

From Angela Court in Minneapolis

THE world figure skating championships began at the Target Centre here yesterday, with many new names likely to win medals.

Of the 12 Olympic medal-winners in the four disciplines that comprise figure skating, more than half are not competing this week. Many will take part in the forthcoming US Tour of Champions, where each appearance will earn several thousand dollars.

Tara Lipinski, Lu Chen, Ilia Kulik, Philippe Candeloro and Elvis Stojko will not skate in the individual events; Mandy Woetzel and Ingo Steuer, the world pairs champions are absent; and Pasha Grishuk and Evgeny Platov, twice

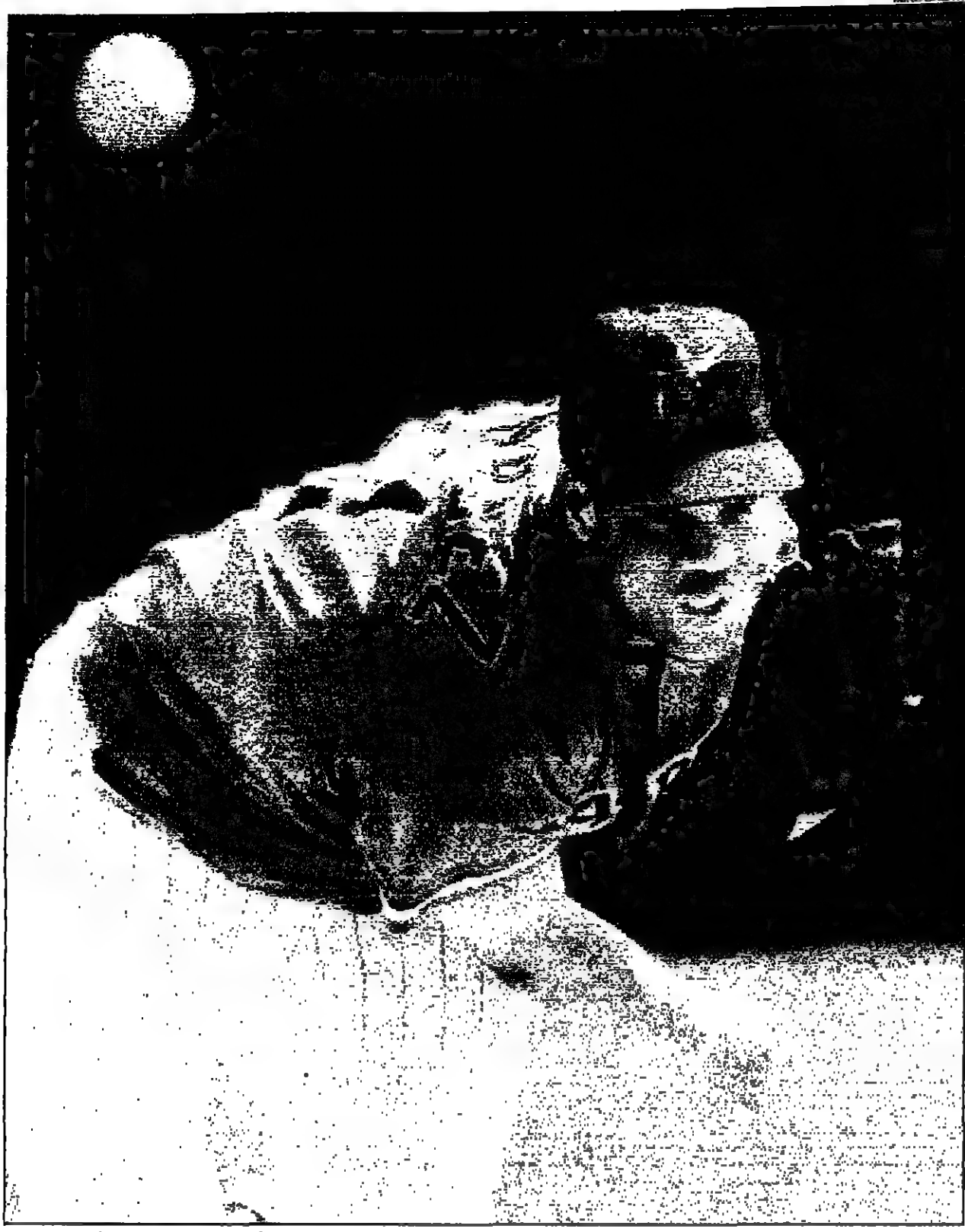
Olympic ice dance champions, have retired from eligible competition.

However, the absence of Olympic medal-winners is not unusual because of the timing of the two events. Those who fulfil their Olympic ambitions often see little point in putting their reputation on the line so soon, especially if they are nearing the end of their championship careers.

The men's event starts today with the short programme. The favourite is Todd Eldredge, of the United States, who will be looking to

end his eligible career on a high note before a supportive home crowd. His main challengers will be the Russian teenagers, Alexei Yagudin and Evgeni Plushenko, who came first and second respectively in the European championships last January.

Steven Cousins, of Great Britain, will be hoping to advance on his recent sixth placings in the European championships and Olympics. He will need to perform better than in the qualifying round on Sunday, when costly errors placed him behind five skaters he had beaten in the Olympics. His best placing in a world championship to date was eighth, in 1995.



Hernandez, the Marlins pitcher, throws to the plate in a spring training game against Baltimore in Viera, Florida

Florida pay dearly for sales

Keith Blackmore finds the World Series champions fearing the worst

When the Florida Marlins hold their World Series ring presentation ceremony before the game with the Milwaukee Brewers on April 5, it will be a strange occasion. Fans who pay to see the ceremony will hardly know whether to laugh or cry.

They will be there to celebrate the Marlins' amazing success in 1997 — but who, they will wonder, are all these strange men in the home uniforms? Furthermore, nostalgia for the recent past will be tempered by gloom for the immediate future. The Marlins may be champions, having defeated the Cleveland Indians in the decisive seventh game of the series on an electric night in Miami last October, but they have next to no chance of repeating their success in the new season, which began yesterday.

No championship-winning team has been built faster than the Marlins and now has been so quickly dismantled. Of the nine players who started that thrilling final game, five have gone. Of the 25 players on the series roster, 12 are no longer with the Marlins, including most of the stars. Three starting pitchers (Kevin Brown, the club ace, among them), the closing pitcher and Moises Alou, the outstanding outfielder, have all been traded away. Traditionalists are dismayed.

On the face of it, the Marlins' extraordinary leap to

glory should fit neatly into the mythology of the sport. Five years ago the club did not even exist, while the final game of the series against Cleveland embodied most of baseball's enduring beauties — nail-biting tension, individual brilliance and ineptitude and a rally (by the underdog Marlins) in the bottom of the ninth inning — but the feeling, present even towards the end of last summer, that the Marlins had succeeded for all the wrong reasons has hardened in the close season.

When Wayne Huizenga, the blockbuster video mogul, a brash and abrasive Floridian, bought the franchise, he was not interested only in giving baseball a home in the burgeoning city of Miami. He wanted to make money. With its huge Latin and, in particular, Cuban population, baseball seemed to be a natural fit.

But to profit, he needed the city to build him a downtown stadium to turn the club into a mighty cash cow, like Cleveland or the Baltimore Orioles,

whose state-of-the-art baseball parks have become tourist attractions in their own right.

When it became clear that Miami taxpayers were reluctant to foot the bill for such a facility, Huizenga gambled. He set out to buy a winning team to win the city over. By splurging nearly \$100 million (about £59 million) last season on free-agent contracts for talents such as Alou and Jim Leyland, the brilliant manager, he achieved his first objective.

The Marlins failed to win their division (which was led, as always, by the Atlanta Braves), but qualified for the playoffs by being best runner-up. Then, then powered their way to the championship. Of course, by being the first "wild-card" team to win the series, they further offended tradition.

Miami was not impressed, not enough anyway to buy Huizenga his stadium. Infuriated by this decision and his escalating losses, Huizenga set

about selling the team, slicing more than \$30 million, almost half, from the payroll. Of the glittering stars of October, only Livan Hernandez, the brilliant young Cuban pitcher, remains.

Recent history suggests that only the teams with the big payrolls need start worrying about hotel reservations in October. The New York Yankees topped the list of spenders last season by doling out \$64 million to their players. Champions in 1996, they failed to make the series only because they lost concentration against Cleveland in the play-offs. The next four biggest spenders, Cleveland, Baltimore, Atlanta and Florida — contested the league championships.

This year, it looks as though it will take about \$70 million to buy, sorry, win the championship, which means there are only four real candidates: the Yankees, Braves, Orioles and Indians. Otherwise, the season will be enlivened by two new teams, the Arizona Diamondbacks and the Tampa Bay Devil Rays, the switch by the Brewers from the American to the National League and the race to break the home run record set by Roger Maris in 1961. Maris hit 61. Last season Mark McGwire, of the St Louis Cardinals, hit 58 and Ken Griffey Jr, of the Seattle Mariners, 56. If they stay fit, both will come close again to the most important individual record in the sport.

PREDICTED FINISHES

National League: East division: Atlanta Braves; Central: St Louis Cardinals; West: Los Angeles Dodgers; Wild card: Houston Astros. American League: East division: New York Yankees; Central: Cleveland Indians; West: Seattle Mariners; Wild card: Baltimore Orioles. Champions: Yankees. World Series winners: Atlanta.

NEW ITF PLAYER VALUATIONS

REVALUED UP	REVALUED DOWN
10702 Jonathan Gould	4.50
11501 Gabe Rios	4.00
20081 David Burrows	1.50
20083 Marcus Hall	1.50
20084 Roland Nilsson	1.50
21001 Gary Locke	2.50
21002 Frances Edwards	2.50
22002 Andy Impy	2.00
31002 Gunnar Hall	2.50
31003 Robert Molnar	2.50
31004 Lucas Radebe	2.50
32003 Steve Potts	2.00
31001 Andy Roberts	2.00
40201 Marc Overmars	6.50
40202 Ian Taylor	3.00
40404 Martin Sulick	1.00
41103 Darryl Powell	2.00
41104 Christian Dally	2.00
41105 Robin Van Der Laan	1.50
41106 Jonathan Hunt	1.50
42001 Steve Michalson	6.50
42002 Oyvind Leonhardsen	4.00
42004 Jarne Rodnapp	4.00
42704 Kevin Richardson	1.00
42901 Eyal Berkovic	4.00
42903 John Moncur	2.50
42904 Trevor Sinclair	4.00
51102 Ashley Ward	3.00
54004 Jan Aage Fjortoft	3.00
55003 Chris Sutton	2.50
55005 Noel Whelan	2.00
51104 Dean Burton	2.00
51002 Jim Hamilton	2.00
51001 Jimmy F. Haselbank	4.00
51004 Michael Owen	2.50
51002 Paolo Di Canio	3.50
52702 Egil Ostertad	3.00
52802 David Hirst	3.00
52801 Chris Armstrong	4.00
60001 Arsenio Wenger	4.50
60001 Darryl Wilson	1.00
60701 Wern Jansen	1.50
60001 Gordon Strachan	1.50
61001 Bert Paton	1.50
61001 John Jeffries	4.50
61001 Bobby Williamson	1.50
61001 George Graham	3.50
62001 Paul Sturrock	2.00
62001 Harry Redknapp	2.50

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS
ROME: Marathon: Marc 1, S. Baldo (It) 2h 20m 33s; 2. M. Teye (Eth) 2:09:51; 3. J. Tetterton (Eti) 2:10:22; Women: 1. F. Falcioni (It) 2:28:12; 2. S. Yelisevich (Rus) 2:34:52; 3. M. Barbach (It) 2:35:18.
LOS ANGELES: Marathon: Marc 1, D. Bello (Eti) 2:12:21; 2. M. Teye (Eth) 2:11:25; 3. S. Yelisevich (Rus) 2:11:41; Women: 1. N. Kiplagat (Ken) 2:34:03; 2. M. Vozniakova (Rus) 2:34:13; 3. H. Kijima (Jpn) 2:35:28.
BASKETBALL
SAN ANTONIO: NCAA tournament: Championship game: Kentucky 78 Utah 61.
BOWLS
MELTON MOWBRAY: Men's All England indoor championships: Fours: First: Nottingham (T. Mitchell, P. Talbot, D. Robinson, B. Morley); by Stanley H. Peacock, E. Henry, C. Palmer, J. Leaman 21-16; Triples: First round: Preston (D. Williams) by Tye Green (A. Anderson) 13-12; Mile Park (C. Hall) by M. Saffell (C. Claxton) 16-15 (after extra end); Second round: Nottingham (P. Talbot) by Wey Valley (B. Emanuel) 16-14; Newcastle (M. Barnett) by Sperrymoor (D. Condon) 18-16; Doncaster (A. Taylor) by East Dorset (R. Morgan) 20-13; Whiteknights (K. Hest) by Cambridge (G. Lillis) 17-16; Mile Park by Preston 20-17; Teagarden by Bertham 18-5; City of Ely by Croxson 18-18; Wyndham Hall by Mile Park 24-20; Wyndham Hall by City of Ely 12-10; Semi-finals: Teagarden by Croxson 22-13; Whiteknights by Mile Park 22-8; Teagarden by Mile Park 24-20; Wyndham Hall by City of Ely 12-10.
ICE HOCKEY
NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Boston 4 Colorado 1; Tampa Bay 3 NY Rangers 1; Los Angeles 3 Toronto 2; St Louis 6 San Jose 2; Edmonton 1 Calgary 1.
ICE SKATING
MINNEAPOLIS: World championships: Men (qualifiers for final stage): Group A: 1. T. Eldredge (US) 1.03:00; 2. M. Weiss (US) 2:0; 3. V. Zagorodnikov (Ukr) 2:04.

FOOTBALL
Monday's late results FA CUP: Tottenham 3 Reading 1 UNIBROD LEAGUE: Premier division: Everton 1 Arsenal 3; First division: Bolton 3 Wigan 1 RHYME LEAGUE: Premier division: Port Vale 1 Huddersfield 1 DE MANTON LEAGUE: Southern division: Chesham 1 Dorking 4 AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Brighton 1 Ipswich 1 PONTING LEAGUE: Premier division: Torquay 1 Plymouth 1 NORTHANTS LEAGUE: Premier division: Nantwich 1 Runcorn 1 SCREWERY DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Southport 1 Runcorn 1 NORTHANTS LEAGUE: Premier division: Nantwich 1 Runcorn 1 SCREWERY DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Southport 1 Runcorn 1
RACKETS
QUEEN'S CLUB: Lancelotti Open doubles championship: First round: J. Grant and M. Farnham (Eng) 8-6, 6-4; 2. S. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 3. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 4. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 5. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 6. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 7. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 8. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 9. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 10. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 11. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 12. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 13. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 14. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 15. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 16. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 17. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 18. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 19. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 20. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 21. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 22. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 23. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 24. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 25. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 26. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 27. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 28. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 29. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 30. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 31. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 32. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 33. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 34. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 35. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 36. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 37. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 38. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 39. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 40. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 41. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 42. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 43. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 44. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 45. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 46. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 47. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 48. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 49. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 50. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 51. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 52. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 53. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 54. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 55. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 56. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 57. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 58. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 59. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 60. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 61. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 62. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 63. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 64. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 65. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 66. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 67. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 68. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 69. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 70. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 71. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 72. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 73. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 74. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 75. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 76. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 77. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 78. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 79. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 80. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 81. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 82. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 83. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 84. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 85. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 86. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 87. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 88. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 89. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 90. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 91. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 92. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 93. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 94. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 95. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 96. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 97. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 98. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 99. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 100. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 101. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 102. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 103. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 104. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 105. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 106. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 107. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 108. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 109. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 110. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 111. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 112. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 113. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 114. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 115. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 116. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 117. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 118. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 119. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 120. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 121. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 122. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 123. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 124. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 125. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 126. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 127. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 128. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 129. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 130. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 131. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 132. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 133. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 134. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 135. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 136. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 137. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 138. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 139. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 140. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 141. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 142. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 143. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 144. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 145. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 146. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 147. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 148. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 149. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 150. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 151. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 152. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 153. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 154. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 155. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 156. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 157. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 158. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 159. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 160. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 161. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 162. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 163. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 164. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 165. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 166. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 167. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 168. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 169. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 170. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 171. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 172. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 173. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 174. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 175. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 176. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 177. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 178. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 179. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 180. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 181. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 182. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 183. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 184. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 185. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 186. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 187. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 188. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8-6, 6-4; 189. J. H. Jones and J. H. Jones (Wales) 8

BOXING

Warren to fight on in dispute with King

By JOHN GOODBODY

FRANK WARREN yesterday vowed to continue his legal tussle against his former partner, Don King, although the costs could reach £2 million if the British promoter loses the case.

In an acrimonious and complicated series of disputes, Warren is being publicly supported by some of Britain's leading boxers, including Naseem Hamed, Richie Woodhall, Herbie Hide and Joe Calzaghe. The future of many boxers is inextricably linked with the outcome of the court battles.

Warren's lawyers have been in touch "for some time" with the legal representatives of Mike Tyson, who has fallen out with King. The former world heavyweight champion is suing the American promoter, claiming that he owes him about £18 million.

Asked yesterday if he would be looking after Tyson in future, Warren replied: "Stranger things have happened. Who knows?" Tyson, who refereed a professional wrestling match in Boston on Sunday, is under an indefinite ban from boxing for chewing Evander Holyfield's ear.

Warren insisted yesterday that he was "not a quitter, not a loser". Although Warren lost the first round in the High Court last Friday, there are many other legal rounds this year, both in Britain and the United States, before an outright winner can be declared.

Last Friday Mr Justice Lightman ruled that there was an agreement between the rivals that the top British boxers should be under joint promotion. He said that Warren was "in breach of the duties he owed Don King Productions Inc (DKPI)".

The judge ruled that the promotional profits of all European boxers signed by Warren before December 5, 1997 have to be shared with King unless Warren buys out the contract.

However, the reverse also applies, with King obliged to share the profits made from any European boxer under his promotional banner. These include Henry Akinwande, who is due to fight Holyfield for the World Boxing Association and International Boxing Federation versions of the world heavyweight title on June 6.

Mr Justice Lightman ruled that, under their contract, Warren had breached his obligations to King when he had signed a deal, reputed to be worth £7.3 million, with Home Box Office (HBO) for the US television rights of six of Hamed's contests.

The first of these was Hamed's successful title defence against Kevin Kelley last December. Bouts promoted by King in the United States are screened by HBO's rival, the Showtime organisation.

A statement by King after the decision last Friday immediately brought a writ for libel from Warren's solicitors. Later this month, Warren will claim in court that King did not fulfil his part of the deal to get British boxers on pay-per-view television in the US. The lawyers for Sports Network, Europe, Warren's company, will argue that it was therefore forced to go to HBO and they will also claim that the company did not receive financial information from King about the European boxers, as it was entitled to do.

If Warren wins this case, then he believes it will supersede the judgment last Friday, against which Warren is appealing.

Possibly the most significant of the legal encounters will be the one later this summer, when Warren will dispute that there is a three-year extension to their contract. King claims that there is a handwritten amendment. Warren alleges that the amendment is a forgery.



Entwistle, of City of Ely, sends a bowl down the rink during his quarter-final match

Wickham in good spirits

By DAVID RHYS JONES

JOHN WICKHAM, who will skip his Teignbridge club colleagues, Roy Johnson and Danny Denton, in the national indoor triples final at Melton Mowbray today, has suffered from trouble with his knee since he had an accident when he was four.

Although it did not stop him playing football for Watford reserves and going on to play for England at bowls, indoors and out, the condition has worsened this season and he plans to have an operation, during which his leg will be broken below the knee.

A recent visit to a faith healer has, Wickham said, helped a great deal and sent him to Melton Mowbray in good spirits, but he will be feeling even better after winning four games in two days on his way to the final.

"I had to miss the area final

club next year, when they hope to team up with John Evans in the triples.

Beating three internationalists from Cumbria in their opening match, Teignbridge dashed the hopes of the holders, Benthams, skipped by Tony Allcock, in the second round, then beat Mote Park 24-20, after leading 19-7 at ten ends.

In the semi-finals, Teignbridge were playing Wyndham Dell, of Norfolk, who were without John Ottaway, their leading player, and had done well to get so far in the tournament. The Devonians were slow to start but took control in the second half, winning 17-13.

Wickham and his second man, Denton, were in trouble last month when they said they would not play for Teignbridge in the Denny Cup finals. They will be joining the Torquay United

Alternative guide to motor racing in 1998

Here it is: this column's cut-out-and-keep guide to the rest of the Formula One season. Here is what to do if you find yourself in town with a good chance of going to watch the motor racing.

April 12: Buenos Aires: Penguins. Visit Punta Tombo on the Valdez peninsula for a colony of Magellanic penguins. A good chance to reread Borges and compare Formula One with his *Universal History of Infamy*. Then strike off for the elephant seal colonies.

April 26: San Marino: It is hard to have an unpleasant time in Italy unless you insist on going to a grand prix. Bologna is the nearest town and a jolly spot, but having gone so far, you might as well hack over to Venice. Don't miss the Carpaccio at the Scuola di San Giorgio and remember that the Giudiccia is the world's finest drinking slab.

May 10: Barcelona: "What do you think of that, Gary?" Des asked the boy Lineker after the opening ceremony at the 1992 Olympic Games. "Well, Des - what you expect from the city that gave us Dali, Miró and Gaudí?" Visit Gaudí's loony Sagrada Família church, with its spire of spires that Burgess called "almost esculent baguettes", drink on Las Ramblas and admire the almost esculent passers-by. Or go to the Pyrenees for the lammergeyer.

May 24: Monaco: A horrible spot. Move along the coast to the Camargue and ride horses. Wonderful place for marsh harriers and flamingos. The farther France gets from Paris the better it gets, so this is not a bad place for a weekend.

June 7: Montreal: One of only two towns in North America in which you can be a *flâneur* and a boulevardier. Also one of the few francophone cities where no one criticises your grammar. So *flâne*, and enjoy the pleasures of France without the French. Half a day's drive will bring you views of minkie, fin and white beluga whales.

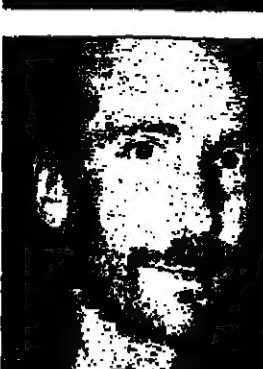
June 28: Magny-Cours: France with the French. Not far from Lyons. Best idea: head off to the French Pyrenees. Matchless butterflies, chance of chamois, griffon vulture and short-toed eagle.

July 26: Zeltweg: Pop over to Vienna as a pilgrimage in honour of the father of psychoanalysis. Consider what Freud would have made of the sport of Formula One. Or Little Hans. Alternative suggestion: head for Salzburg and take in a concert or two. There was a fairly decent local composer whose work is occasionally played there. An even nicer noise than a Formula One grid at the start, and more earth-shaking. Chance of ibex in the Alps.

August 2: Hockenheim: I once hitch-hiked from one end of Germany to the other in 24 hours. And I once nearly killed Hermann Neuburger, the FiFa hotshot, by inadvertently bombing him with a large glass lamp. Perhaps I should go to this one and have a crack at Bernie Ecclestone.

August 16: Budapest. An intriguing city, but I spoil my only visit by going to the

SIMON BARNES



Midweek View

June 28: Magny-Cours: France with the French. Not far from Lyons. Best idea: head off to the French Pyrenees. Matchless butterflies, chance of chamois, griffon vulture and short-toed eagle.

July 26: Zeltweg: Pop over to Vienna as a pilgrimage in honour of the father of psychoanalysis. Consider what Freud would have made of the sport of Formula One. Or Little Hans. Alternative suggestion: head for Salzburg and take in a concert or two. There was a fairly decent local composer whose work is occasionally played there. An even nicer noise than a Formula One grid at the start, and more earth-shaking. Chance of ibex in the Alps.

August 2: Hockenheim: I once hitch-hiked from one end of Germany to the other in 24 hours. And I once nearly killed Hermann Neuburger, the FiFa hotshot, by inadvertently bombing him with a large glass lamp. Perhaps I should go to this one and have a crack at Bernie Ecclestone.

August 16: Budapest. An intriguing city, but I spoil my only visit by going to the

motor racing. I'm told that there are marvellous raptors at Hortobagy National Park. Back in the city, violinists keep playing *The Blue Danube* in your face when you're trying to eat soup, but they stop if you pay them. Formula One is considering introducing this principle as a kind of reverse pay-per-view.

August 30: Spa-Francorchamps: In Belgium but not too far from Amsterdam, one of the great cities. Pavement cafés, Rembrandts and the unbelievable Van Gogh museum. "I always think that the best way to know God is to love many things," Vincent said and then painted them like fury. Those of my own generation may care to make a visit to Paradiso or the Milkweg to wonder what went wrong. So might Bernie.

September 13: Monza: Handy for Milan, which has the second-best square in Europe, after San Marco. Go on to the cathedral roof and walk among the flying buttresses and spires, which are like slightly melted ice-cream cones. And, of course, they are almost esculent. Ditto the passers-by.

September 27: Luxembourg: I have never visited the home of 208, your station of the stars, the radio station that told the world about Horace Bachelard and his Famous Infra-Draw Method (Kay Ee Why En...).

November 1: Suzuka: The track is about three hours from Tokyo, so forget it. Take the bullet train to Kyoto, and walk The Philosopher's Way. Visit the world's most profound gardens. Contemplate the mysteries of Zen and Joshi's *mu*, as Bernie wonders about the sound of no hands clapping. Or nip across to Russia for brown bear feeding on spawning salmon.

I realise now that I have neglected to mention the British Grand Prix. This will be held on July 12 at Silverstone. The nearest town is Milton Keynes. I think on the whole, you're better off going to the grand prix.

* Thanks to Wildlife World-wide on 0181 667 9158.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT
This hand is from the 1997 Premier League. What is the best line of play in Six Hearts, on a diamond lead?

Dealer South	North-South game	IMPs
♠ K975 ♥ K3 ♦ AK ♣ KQ743	♠ A4 ♥ J9 ♦ 88762 ♣ 10982	
♠ QJ83 ♥ 875 ♦ QJ6 ♣ J65	♠ 1062 ♥ AQ10842 ♦ 1043 ♣ A	

Contract: Six Hearts by South. Least queen of diamonds

At most tables South played in Six Hearts after showing a minimum opening bid with a good heart suit and two aces. North usually bid both clubs and spades, so the opening lead was the queen of diamonds. The queen of spades would have beaten the contract, and at one table a low spade from West also turned out to be the winner - declarer was convinced that West was capable of underleading the ace of spades, so he put up the king from dummy at trick one and the defence took the first three tricks.

After the diamond lead, provided there is no heart loser, you have eleven tricks: six in hearts, two in diamonds and three in clubs. So you need one more from somewhere. One line of play is to try to take a diamond ruff in dummy. That means you have to play off ace and king of diamonds, play a club to the ace and take a diamond ruff. You then cash the king of hearts, and play off the king and queen of clubs. Even if all this passes off successfully, you are in dummy.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

FIERASSER

- a. An arsonist
- b. A fish
- c. A jerk

NEWTON'S RINGS

- a. Windfalls
- b. Telephones
- c. Colours

GIGGER

- a. An author
- b. The power of ten
- c. A cab-driver

PRILLS

- a. Dry fertiliser
- b. Waitresses' cuffs
- c. Small sea creatures

Answers on page 42

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Mental feats

The tournament in Monaco combined quickplay chess and blindfold chess. Normally blindfold displays are carried out by a grandmaster facing a field of lesser lights. Only a few, such as Reti, Alekhine, Najdorf and Koltanovsky have been able to take on large numbers of opponents at the same time in this particular discipline.

In Monaco, what was tested in the blindfold games was not weight of numbers of the opposition but quality. In blindfold games the grandmasters were shown an empty chessboard on a computer screen and simply indicated their move utilising a computer mouse. The pressure of facing a powerful opponent without being able to see the moves of the pieces did not prevent a high degree of quality being exhibited in the games.

White: Vassily Ivanchuk
Black: Vladimir Kramnik
Monte Carlo blindfold March 1998

Catalan Opening	French Defence
1 d4	1 e6
2 c4	2 d5
3 Nf3	3 Nc6
4 g3	4 Bg7
5 Bg2	5 d4
6 c2	6 Qd6
7 d5	7 Qc7
8 Nc3	8 Bc5
9 Nxd4	9 Nf6
10 Bxh7	10 Bxh7
11 Bxh7	11 Bxh7
12 Nc2	12 Nc2
13 Rf1	13 Rf1
14 e3	14 e3
15 N3	15 N3
16 Rg1	16 Rg1
17 e4	17 e4
18 Ng5	18 Ng5
19 f4	19 f4

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Westerinen - Sigurjonsson, New York, 1977. Black has sacrificed a piece for a fierce attack against the white king. White, however, now turned the tables with an attacking sequence of his own. What did he play?

Solution on page 42

White: Vassily Ivanchuk
Black: Predrag Nikolic
Monte Carlo rapidplay March 1998

French Defence	White Defence
1 e4	1 e4
2 d5	2 d5
3 Nc6	3 Nc6
4 Bg7	4 Bg7
5 d4	5 d4
6 Bc5	6 Bc5
7 Qd6	7 Qd6
8 Bc5	8 Bc5
9 Nf6	9 Nf6
10 Bxh7	10 Bxh7
11 Bxh7	11 Bxh7
12 Nc2	12 Nc2
13 Rf1	13 Rf1
14 e3	14 e3
15 N3	15 N3
16 Rg1	16 Rg1
17 e4	17 e4
18 Ng5	18 Ng5
19 f4	19 f4

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Westerinen - Sigurjonsson, New York, 1977. Black has sacrificed a piece for a fierce attack against the white king. White, however, now turned the tables with an attacking sequence of his own. What did he play?

Solution on page 42

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND OTHERS IN THE MATTER OF A PLAN OF ARRANGEMENT OF OLYMPIA & YORK DEVELOPMENTS LIMITED WITH HEAD OFFICE IN THE CITY OF TORONTO, PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

PURSUANT to the Order of Mr Justice Farley made on March 12, 1998 in the Ontario Court (General Division), any person purporting to be entitled to make a claim of any nature or kind (actual, contingent or otherwise) arising out of any matter or thing whatsoever occurring, or existing after May 2, 1997 up to and including March 12, 1998, against:

(i) Coopers & Lybrand OYDL Inc. (the "Administrator") Administrator of Olympia & York Developments Limited ("OYDL") appointed pursuant to OYDL's Revised Plan of Compromise and Arrangement sanctioned by the Court by Order dated February 5, 1993 (the "Plan"); the Administrator's employees, agents, counsel, contractors, directors or officers or persons who provided services to the Administrator; and/or

(ii) the Monitoring Committee, its counsel, the individual members of the Monitoring Committee appointed from time to time or their respective employers, in respect of the actions taken by their employees in their capacity as members of the Monitoring Committee; and/or

(iii) the following companies during the time they were direct or indirect subsidiaries of OYDL:

Bayview Investments Ltd., Grenville Developments Limited, GWU Holdings Limited, GWU Investments Limited, GWU Newco Inc., Echo Point Investments Limited, Kahlan Holdings Limited, Kahlan Holdings Inc., Kahlan Holdings Ltd., O&Y (CP) Credit Corp., O & Y Enterprises Inc., O&Y Enterprises Inc. (am. co.), Olympia & York (5140 Yonge Street) Leasing Limited, Olympia & York ACC Limited, Olympia & York AMCC Limited, Olympia & York Commercial Paper II Inc., Olympia & York Commercial Paper Corp., Olympia & York Contractors Limited, Olympia & York Credit Corp., Olympia & York Creditco Limited, Olympia & York Creditco Holdings Corporation, Olympia & York ET Limited, Olympia & York Eurocreditco Limited, Olympia & York European Holdings Limited, Olympia & York FAP Limited, Olympia & York (Fifth Avenue Place) Limited, Olympia & York (Fifth Avenue Place) Leasing Limited, Olympia & York (First Canada Place) Limited, Olympia & York GCS Limited, Olympia & York (Gulf Canada Square) Limited, Olympia & York (Gulf Canada Square) Leasing Limited, Olympia & York Realty Credit Corp., Olympia & York Security Services Limited, Olympia & York (Shell Centre) Limited, Olympia & York SP Corporation, Olympia & York 240 Spadina Street Limited, Olympia & York (240 Avenue S.W.) Leasing Limited, Olympia & York U.K. Holdings Limited, Olympia & York Queens Quay Terminal Limited, Olympia & York Securities Corp., SFE Operations Ltd., 5140 Yonge Street Limited, O&Y Energy Holdings Limited, O&Y Forest Products Holdings Limited, 608 Holdings Inc., 592549 Ontario Inc., 633119 Ontario Inc., 656624 Ontario Inc., 658120 Ontario Inc., 6853474 Holdings Ltd. (B.C. Company), 696737 Ontario Inc., 720497 Ontario Inc., 735735 Ontario Inc., 736869 Ontario Inc., 750423 Ontario Inc., 825684 Ontario Inc., 825706 Ontario Inc., 826244 Ontario Inc., 850593 Ontario Inc., 851489 Ontario Inc., 906692 Ontario Inc., 922229 Ontario Inc., 857408 Ontario Inc., (formerly Olympia & York CC Limited) and for the period from December 12, 1996 to January 15, 1997 Olympia & York Exchange Tower Limited [all of the aforementioned companies are collectively referred to herein as the "OYDL Subsidiaries"]; and/or

(iv) the representatives of the Administrator or Coopers & Lybrand Limited (the "Trustee") who served as directors and/or officers of OYDL and certain of the OYDL Subsidiaries. The OYDL Subsidiaries, to the best of our knowledge, on which representatives of the Administrator or the Trustee may have served as directors and officers are identified with an * beside its name;

must give notice of such a claim in writing directed to the Administrator at the following address:

Coopers & Lybrand OYDL Inc.
Administrator of Olympia & York Developments Limited
145 King Street West
Toronto, Ontario
M5H 1V8

Attention: Mrs Elaine Kimer-Choi, Fax 001 416 941-8378
The notice of claim must include a description of the nature of the claim, the facts upon which the claim is based and the estimated value of the claim.

No claim may be made unless it is received by the Administrator in writing on or before April 20, 1998. This is not intended to cover claims directly against OYDL, in bankruptcy.

Barriers & Solicitors
Scotia Plaza
40 King Street West
Toronto, Ontario
M5H 3Y4
Solicitors for Coopers & Lybrand OYDL Inc.

APPLICATION FOR A SPECIAL

TO THE CLERK OF THE COURT FOR THE LICENSING DIVISION OF THE COURT OF JUDICATURE

TO THE CLERK OF THE COURT FOR THE LICENSING DIVISION OF THE COURT OF JUDICATURE

TO THE CLERK OF THE COURT FOR THE LICENSING DIVISION OF THE COURT OF JUDICATURE

TO THE CLERK OF THE COURT FOR THE LICENSING DIVISION OF THE COURT OF JUDICATURE

TO THE CLERK OF THE COURT FOR THE LICENSING DIVISION OF THE COURT OF JUDICATURE

TO THE CLERK OF THE COURT FOR THE LICENSING DIVISION OF THE COURT OF JUDICATURE

TO THE CLERK OF THE COURT FOR THE LICENSING DIVISION OF THE COURT OF JUDICATURE

TO THE CLERK OF THE COURT FOR THE LICENSING DIVISION OF THE COURT OF JUDICATURE

TO THE CLERK OF THE COURT FOR THE LICENSING DIVISION OF THE COURT OF JUDICATURE

TO THE CLERK OF THE COURT FOR THE LICENSING DIVISION OF THE COURT OF JUDICATURE

TO THE CLERK OF THE COURT FOR THE LICENSING DIVISION OF THE COURT OF JUDICATURE

TO THE CLERK OF THE COURT FOR THE LICENSING DIVISION OF THE COURT OF JUDICATURE

TO THE CLERK OF THE COURT FOR THE LICENSING DIVISION OF THE COURT OF JUDICATURE

TO THE CLERK OF THE COURT FOR THE LICENSING DIVISION OF THE COURT OF JUDICATURE

TO THE CLERK OF THE COURT FOR THE LICENSING DIVISION OF THE COURT OF JUDICATURE

TO THE CLERK OF THE COURT FOR THE LICENSING DIVISION OF THE COURT OF JUDICATURE

TO THE CLERK OF THE COURT FOR THE LICENSING DIVISION OF THE COURT OF JUDICATURE

TO THE CLERK OF THE COURT FOR THE LICENSING DIVISION OF THE COURT OF JUDICATURE

TO THE CLERK OF THE COURT FOR THE LICENSING DIVISION OF THE COURT OF JUDICATURE

TO THE CLERK OF THE COURT FOR THE LICENSING DIVISION OF THE COURT OF JUDICATURE

TO THE CLERK OF THE COURT FOR THE LICENSING DIVISION OF THE COURT OF JUDICATURE

TO THE CLERK OF THE COURT FOR THE LICENSING DIVISION OF THE COURT OF JUDICATURE

TO THE CLERK OF THE COURT FOR THE LICENSING DIVISION OF THE COURT OF JUDICATURE

RUGBY UNION: WOODWARD USING IRELAND MATCH FOR POSITIONAL EXPERIMENT

England give Catt wide berth

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

MIKE CATT, who began this season as England's first-choice fly half, will extend his international career against Ireland at Twickenham on Saturday by playing on the right wing. It will be Catt's 29th appearance for his country but his first in that position, indeed the first time in senior rugby that he has started a game there.

This latest change, during a season in which he has been picked at centre, made four appearances at fly half and one at full back, is the result of



Clive Woodward's desire to pack his XV with footballers. It is hardly a novel theory. The most obvious of recent England wings with the same skills is Mike Slemmon, who, like Woodward, went on to coach his country, while Simon Halliday found himself moved from the centre by Geoff Cooke eight years ago.

Few coaches, though, have pursued the theory with the same tenacity as Woodward, who now has a fly half on one wing and a scrum half, Austin Healey, on the other. "I'm trying to move the game forward in terms of our thinking and how we play," he said yesterday as his players assembled for their final Five Nations Championship match.

His promotion of Catt, whose skills he has always admired and who has now recovered from the concussion sustained playing for Bath against Bristol at the beginning of March, comes at the expense of Adebayo Adebayo. The other casualty from the 34-20 victory over Scotland is at No.8, where Dean Ryan gives way to Tony Diprose on



Catt is flanked by Guscott and Dallaglio, right, as he prepares for his new England role in training yesterday

a horses-for-courses basis that England players are having to accept rapidly.

"I'm determined we have our best footballers on the pitch," Woodward said. "I'm quite excited about what Catt may bring to the team. I think it shows every wing in the country that you have to be a very good footballer. You could have Carl Lewis on the wing, but if he can't do what I want in terms of catching, passing and kicking a rugby ball it's a waste of time."

Thus, in the absence of the injured David Rees and Tony Underwood, other aspirants such as Dominic Chapman, Spencer Brown and Darren O'Leary must look to their laurels. Woodward, having talked twice with the player, was frank about Adebayo's loss of his place. "I don't think he's anywhere near where he was with Bath last season,"

ENGLAND

M B Perry (Bath), M J Catt (Bath), W J H Greenwood (Leicester), J C Goscutt (Bath), A S Healey (Leicester), P J Grayson (Northampton), M J S Dawson (Northampton), J Leonard (Harlequins), R Cookson (Leicester), D J Garforth (Leicester), M O Johnson (Leicester), S S Archer (Newcastle), L B N Dallaglio (Wasps, captain), N A Black (Leicester), A J Diprose (Saracens), Representations: Q C Rowlands (Leicester), D E West (Leicester), D J Greenwood (Saracens), D Ryan (Newcastle), S Benton (Gloucester), J Wilkinson (Newcastle), P R de Glanville (Bath).

Woodward said. "He's still carrying a few niggles — he hasn't quite the pace we know he used to have."

Catt, 27, welcomed his return to the side, albeit in an unfamiliar position that he has occupied for only 40 minutes — in Bath's league meeting with Orrell in 1994. "I have the freedom of the pitch

and that's good," he said. "Austin has been all over the place in the games he has played and there will be times when I'll be needed, especially in open play, as the extra link. I hope I have the ability to read the game well enough so I can fit in. It builds your confidence if the coach believes you can fit in and I need to prove something after Paris."

Playing at full back against France in February, Catt kicked too much possession away and lost his place to Matt Perry, but his versatility has always been one of his great advantages, his speed on the break unequalled by other English fly halves. In defensive terms, wing can be the loosest of places but Catt's experience at full back should stand him in good stead.

Kyran Bracken, the Saracens scrum half, could not

challenge Matt Dawson at scrum half because of his damaged shoulder while Phil Vickery remains out of contention at prop for similar reasons. But the change to the back row was expected, given Diprose's good form for Saracens.

Ryan remains among the replacements, his international comeback having lasted 69 minutes against Scotland, but the switch had been in Woodward's mind even before then. "You think of the opposition, of the style of rugby and the Scotland game was right for Ryan," Woodward said. "I think this game is right for Diprose. He feels he has something to prove, which is good."

Ireland have added Allen Clarke, the Northampton hooker, to their squad in case Ross Nisdeale, the replacement hooker, succumbs to injury.

RFU plays safe after unpaid final demand

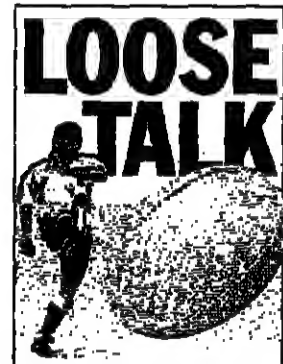
The thinking behind the Rugby Football Union's (RFU) decision not to allow Saracens and Wasps to have tickets for the Teddy's Bitter Cup final on tick can be revealed. It is understood that Sale and Leicester, the finalists last year, between them still owe Twickenham more than £100,000. Both clubs dispute the figures, claiming that they were entitled to a share of proceeds to cover administration costs. This year the RFU is not taking any chances.

Sunday service

The official television ratings for the Calcutta Cup match at Murrayfield — the first to be held on a Sunday — provide food for thought. An average of 5.3 million watched the match on BBC2 — yet the

corresponding figure two years ago on a Saturday claimed an audience of 8.4 million. The BBC says it is more than happy with the ratings — whether the Sunday experiment will be continued next season remains to be seen. Despite not having Twickenham games, the BBC has regularly trounced Sky and ITV in head-to-head confrontations this season. Surely this reinforces the argument that the Five Nations as a whole should be part of the protected Crown Jewels?

Blackheath are crossing their fingers that they have raised £1 million from a private share placement to ensure that their ground-breaking joint venture with Auckland goes ahead. The deadline for applications



passed at midnight last night. A spokesman said: "Getting people to act and send in the cheques has been nerve-racking."

Brothers in arms

Congratulations to RGS High Wycombe. The school had

four sets of brothers, including twins, involved in representative teams over the weekend. Twins Ben and Tom Whitehouse played in the Schools' Cup Under-15 final at Twickenham against Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Wakefield; Adam Gilbert also played in that team, while his older brother, Simon, was part of the under-18 team beaten by Colston's Collegiate, Bristol. Simon Duncombe was a member of that side, while his younger brother, Nick, played at scrum half for England 16 group against Wales. Last but not least, Mark Honyman captained the under-15s and Matthew, his elder brother, was fly half in the England A Under-16 team against Wales last Friday. Unfortunately, none finished on the winning side.

Blast from past

And finally... Wayne Davige, the Blenheim Harlequins captain, knew that he had blundered when he squared up to Abersychan's tight-head prop during a recent Pontypool and District second division match. There, glaring back at him, were the granite features of Graham Price, arguably Wales's finest front-row forward. At 46, he is still packing down — 20 years after playing in the Wales side that beat France 16-7 in Cardiff to clinch their last grand slam. "He told me to go away," Davige said. "And I took his advice — the same as anyone else would if they had any sense!"

MARK SOUSTER

WORLD WATCHING

Answers from page 41

FIERASER

(b) A small parasitic fish, of the family Caramidae, found in Mediterranean and British waters.

NEWTON'S RINGS

(c) The effect produced when light is shown on a thin transparent film. Some light is reflected from the top surface, some goes in and is then reflected back off the bottom.

GIGGER

(a) Rudyard Kipling was called Giggers when he went to the United States College, Westward Ho! He was aged 12 and the only boy wearing spectacles. He was called Giggers, hence Giggers. The school moved to Harpenden in 1904 and to Windsor in 1906. It changed its name to Imperial Service College in 1912. In 1942, with both schools in trouble with numbers, it amalgamated with Halesbury. ISC was dropped from the title in 1966.

PRILLS

(a) Granules of ammonium nitrate, from 1 to 3 millimetres in diameter. A solution of the nitrate is concentrated to around 96 per cent, and the hot liquid is sprayed into the top of the prilling tower, which is 30 metres high. There it falls through an up-current of cold, dry air, producing the prills at the bottom.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1. Qxg7+! Kxg7; 2. Bg8+ Kh8 (2... Kf7; 3. Bg5 mate or 2... Kh6; 3. Rh3 mate); 3. Rg8+ Kxg8; 4. Bf6+ Rg7; 5. Bxg7+ Kg8; 6. Bxd4+ and White wins.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

European Cup

Semi-finals, first leg

Juventus v AS Monaco (7.45)

Real Madrid v Borussia Dortmund (7.45)

Nationwide League

First division

Nottm Forest v Sheffield United (7.45)

QPR v Wolverhampton (7.45)

Bell's Scottish League

Premier division

Rangers v Hibernian (7.45)

UNBOND LEAGUE

Premier division

Barnet v Luton (7.45)

Reading v Walsley (7.45)

First division

Bradford Park Avenue v Whiteley

Bay, Farnley Celtic v Belper Town

Challenge Cup: Semi-final, second leg

Gainsborough (2) v Blyth Spartans (1)

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Southern division

Neosport AFC v Rye Town

Waterlooville v Clarendon Town (7.45)

Midland division: RC Warwick v

Grantham (7.45)

RYMAN LEAGUE: First division

Croydon v Bletchley (7.45)

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION

First division: Charlton Athletic v Weymouth (2.0)

Luton v Southampton (at Highbury Town FC, 2.0)

PONTIFR LEAGUE

Premier division

Birmingham v Truro (7.15)

First division

Colton v Walsley (7.15)

City (at Leigh RMI FC, 7.0)

Cowthorpe v Port Vale (7.0)

Huddersfield v West Bromwich Albion (7.0)

Middleborough v Leicester (7.0)

Wolverhampton Wanderers v

Grimsby (at Telford United FC, 7.0)

Second division

Barnsley v York (7.0)

Roadside v Lincoln (7.0)

Shrewsbury v Walsley (7.0)

Stockport v Burnley (at Hyde United FC, 7.0)

Titled division

Hull v Southport (7.0)

Walsley v Bury (7.0)

LEAGUE OF WALES

Elbow Vale v Barry

(at Merthyr Tydfil FC), Gwent v Llanelli

Cable-Tel

COMPLETE MUSIC HELLING

League: Premier Division

Hatfield v

Shortwood

Tulley v

Wantage v Banbury

ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTH LEAGUE

First division

Durham v

Northerly

Jarrow Roofing v

Bedlington Town

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE

First division

Shapley v

Faversham

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE

Premier division

Chappenhurst v

Taunton

Marlow United v

Elmore

Torrington v

Blidford

MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE

Premier division

Brook House v

Arnhem (7.45)

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE

Premier division

Bowers v

Great Wakering

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE

Premier division

Stafford v

Blithfield S.

Walsley Wood v

Brierley Hill Town

Wolverhampton v

Milverton Town

UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTRIES LEAGUE

Premier division

Yeadon v

Spalding

NORTHERN COUNTRIES EAST LEAGUE

Premier division

Hallam v

Denaby

NORTH WEST COUNTRIES LEAGUE

First division

Mossley v

Kilgobbin

St Helens v

Prescot Cables

Farnsbottom v

Salford

THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP

Semi-final

Leeds United v

Everton (7.0)

RUGBY UNION

HART GILMORE NORTH MIDLANDS CHAMPIONSHIP

Shropshire v

Worcestershire and

Halesfordshire (at

Shrewsbury, 7.30)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League

Manchester Giants v

Sheffield Sharks (7.30)

SCOWLS: CBA national championship final

(at Milton Keynes)

SNOCCKER: British Open

(at Plymouth Pavilions)

SPEEDWAY: Speedway Star Cup

King's Lynn v

Eastbourne (7.45)

Premier League

Hull v

Glasgow (7.30)

SQUASH: British Open

(at the National Indoor Arena, Birmingham)

TELEVISION CHOICE

Food for fancy footballers

Antonio Carluccio's Southern Italian Feast
BBC2, 8.00pm

Sardinia is the first stop in this new series by the genial Italian cook who loves his food and has the wit to prove it. An Antonio Carluccio diet would be a contradiction in terms. Having said that, most of the dishes Carluccio demonstrates tonight are the epitome of healthy eating, unless you count the three sorts of cheese that go into his ravioli. There is a fourth cheese on view, a speciality of the local shepherds, but since it is crawling with maggots even our plucky chef shies away. The ravioli is prepared for a famous son of Sardinia, currently plying his trade on English football grounds. But the father of Chelsea's Gianfranco Zola still lives on the island, as do an extraordinary number of cousins. Ravioli apart, Carluccio grills mushrooms and knocks up a very fair planter of seafood.

Home Front

BBC2, 8.30pm

There is a moment of history tonight when the recipients of a makeover from the flame-haired Anne McKevitt dislike what she has done and change it. In all the five previous series of *Home Front* it is difficult to recall this happening. The cause of the rebellion, the wall of a new shower room, may be trivial but if this goes on the show is in danger of disintegrating. For it is axiomatic that the people who call in the experts to redecorate their homes like what they see and say so in extravagant terms. Luckily most of them still do, enthusing over eccentric colour schemes from the same McKevitt which some of us might find garish and tasteless. The running story of the new series is about an unconventional couple who have taken over a derelict barn in Norfolk and hope to convert it to the home of their dreams.

Modern Times: Friends

BBC2, 9.00pm

Emma Hewitt's film captures the thoughts and emotions of a group of people in their mid-thirties, most of whom have known each other since their early schooldays and are still close. They have mostly pursued successful careers, though their private lives seem to have been less fulfilled. There



Chef Antonio Carluccio (BBC2, 8.00pm)

is only one marriage among the group and no children, and many of them are still reluctant to make commitments and settle down. Of the value of friendship there is no doubt, particularly when times are bad. As one of the characters says: "It's like having a big cushion behind you to push you back up." Friendship can even survive such emotional traumas as losing the great love of your life to one of your best mates. Sarah used to be with Carl but left him for Gerrard.

First on Four

Channel 4, 10.00pm

Channel 4 cannot claim credit for launching all the new comedians who emerged in the mid-1980s but with *Saturday Live* and *Friday Night Live* it gave many of their careers a decisive push. The shows not only want out live, which gave them an extra edge of danger and excitement, but, in the words of one luminary, Lenny Henry, "put a firework up the bum of British comedy". The series often came close to being taken off, not least after an outrageous contribution from Pamela Stephenson, and Ben Elton, another star, recalls having to perform his routine in front of a story-faced lawyer before the performance. But the comedy was not all subversive. *Saturday Live* was a broad enough church to embrace not only Henry, Elton, Harry Enfield and Jo Brand, but Peter Cook, Dame Edna Everage and Michael Barrymore. Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

The Bells, The Bells

Radio 2, 9.00pm

They have been making bells. Big Ben among them, at the Whitechapel Bell Foundry in London for 400 years. The foundry's Alan Hughes reckons that "the sound of church bells ringing is very much part of the tapestry of this country and you have this tiny number of people, 40,000 (bellingers), producing a large part of the fabric of what is England". This programme, presented by Brian Blessed, looks at campanology in all its forms, complete with plenty of examples. I doubt that the elderly woman recently taken to court for damaging the church bells that blighted her life will be listening by the end of the programme. But there is certainly something haunting about bells properly rung.

RADIO 1

8.50am Kevin Greening and Zola Bell 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 The Shell 8.30 Meridian Live 8.00 News: (648 only) News in German 8.10 Passes for Thought 8.15 Westway 8.30 Euro The Evening News 8.30 News Update 8.40 John Peel Includes music from Barghwyter 10.30 Mary Anne Hobbes 1.00am Charlie Jordan 4.00 Clive Warren

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 8.30 Kim Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Thompson 3.00pm Lester 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Nick Barnard 8.00 Ralph McTell 9.00 The Bells, The Bells. See Choice 9.30 Around Warwick's World 10.00 The Shell: Wright Picture Show 10.30 McQuinn 11.45 The People's Poems 12.05am Steve Madden 3.00 Annie Chen

Gagarin: the rocket man who fell to Earth

Melvin Bragg's *South Bank Show* still turns out uncritical profiles but mostly we get the other, debunking sort. Channel 4 with *Secret Lives* and BBC2 with *Reputations* have been steadily working through the good and famous and suggesting that even the most saintly figures were somewhat less than perfect. There can have been no more heroic figure in the past 50 years than Yuri Gagarin, the first man in space, but trust television to knock him down.

James Doran's *Reputations* Special, last night, called Yuri Gagarin: Starman (BBC2) was not so much a hatchet job, however, as the study of a man who achieved international fame in 108 minutes (the time he spent on his historic flight in April 1961) and lived the rest of his life as severe anticlimax. Partly the fault was the Soviet regime, which seemed almost determined to find Gagarin

nothing worthwhile to do. He never went into space again and struggled even to resume his original passion of flying aircraft. It was no wonder, perhaps, that he took heavily to drink and tried to cheer on his wife with hotel chambermaids.

The film tried, without much success, to throw fresh light on Gagarin's premature death in an air crash but was on surer ground in charting his early years. He grew up on a collective farm which was occupied by German troops during the Second World War, and saw German atrocities at close hand. He was resilient enough to come through. The point was made that as the son of a poor rural labourer he was exactly the sort of hero the Soviet Union needed to advertise its lead in the space race. The smiling fresh-faced son of the soil was to be antidote to America's decadent capitalist icon, Elvis Presley. Indeed Gagarin was

chosen for the flight over an equally qualified rival precisely because of his proletarian origins. The other astronaut had the misfortune to be the son of a teacher, not exactly the upper reaches of the bourgeoisie but enough to lose him the job. He told us how upset he was to be passed over and still sounds bitter.

The film was good on the incidental detail, much of it provided through first-hand recollection. Unknown to him, and ever more to the wider world, Gagarin was given only a 30.50 chance of survival. Three envelopes were prepared, with three different announcements: the success of the flight; the failure of the mission; but Gagarin's survival. Gagarin's death, we hear from his family that they did not know about the flight until it was over. They heard about it, like any other citizens of the Soviet Union, only

REVIEW



Peter Waymark

when it was announced on the radio. Then he went off smiling round the world, only to disappear from view soon afterwards, and almost the next thing we knew was that he was dead at the age of 34. Although John Thaw continues to switch his northern vowels and off with sometimes startling abruptness, Kavanagh QC (ITV) continues to give good value. As in the previous series, Charles Wood

has been recruited to the script writing team and much to the show's benefit. Wood is one of television's finest writers, even though dramas such as *Tumble-Down* seem a long time ago, and professional enough to take on a format created by others and stay true to it while making his own individual mark.

The centrepiece of Wood's scenario had Thaw's Kavanagh defending a woman (Lynda Steadman) accused of murdering her husband. As she was almost too ready to admit to the crime, the challenge for our star barrister was to persuade her that she was provoked and therefore deserving of sympathetic treatment. That she was disinclined to take this route made for some pithy confrontations.

Apart from its juicy spectacle court battles, the delight of the series is the unctuous Jeremy Alderman, played deliciously by Nicholas Jones. All the best popular drama needs light relief and this the Alderman character infallibly provides. A subplot which had Alderman accused of taking a peek at another barrister's brief, and being forced to grovel to Kavanagh for help as he faced a disciplinary hearing, was a perfect counterpoint to the main business. One reservation about the current series is that Valerie Edmond's scary junior has still not quite found her role. Wood could not help much but perhaps some future scriptwriter will.

Desmond Wilcox's forte is presenting stories of admirable people without being patronising or mushy about them. For Kerr, the former British Airways stewardess who helped to rebuild an orphanage in Bangladesh, is the perfect Wilcox subject. She first encountered the children's village 30 miles north of

Dhaka while flying to Bangladesh for BA, and decided to stay and help. That was 12 years ago. She has become an occupational therapist but thinks nothing of popping out to Bangladesh for a long weekend. Wilcox has already made three films about her. Last night we saw the fourth, informally titled *A Wedding, a Crisis and 600 Children* (ITV) which saw her married in Bangladesh to her businessman fiancé Derek Palmer. As the title suggests there were many youthful guests.

It is easy to be cynical about such projects but Wilcox has been making them long enough to strike the right balance, allowing the proper expression of admiration for a good woman and rejoicing with her on the happiest day of her life, but never letting sentiment get out of control. A fifth film about Kerr, or Mrs Palmer as she now is, will surely be added to the Wilcox canon one of these days.

- 6.00am Business Breakfast** (75555)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (1) (39401)
9.00 Good Living (9332538)
9.25 Kilroy (1) (4793772)
10.05 Style Challenge (7931738)
10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (1) (5002642)
10.55 The Really Useful Show (1) (9801159)
11.35 Real Rooms (4527420)
12.00 News (1) (2985739)
12.05pm Call My Bluff (3263772)
12.35 Wipeout (4897084)
1.00 News (1) and weather (49888)
1.30 Regional News (1) (77356371)
1.40 The Weather Show (64912401)
1.45 Neighbours (1) (92395555)
2.10 Lion Country (30937248)
2.40 Racing from Ascot includes the 3.05 and 3.35 races (5879710)
3.50 Chickadee (1771642) 4.10 *Get Your Own Back* (2608073) The Demon Headmaster (1) (8036536) 5.00 *Newsround* (1) (5249284) 5.10 *Blue Peter* (1) (479325)
5.35 Neighbours (1) (784710)
6.00 Six O'Clock News (1) and weather (36)
6.30 Regional News (1) (86)
7.00 Junior Masterchef Young contestants from the South West and Wales; chef Alison Yarnman and Alan Titchmarsh judge (1) (1710)
7.30 Tomorrow's World A ship with legs for the choppy seas around Hawaii; a fire alarm which can guide people out of smoke-filled buildings (1) (72)
8.00 Doctors Orders Dr Paul Slade faces breaking bad news to a patient (1) (7130)
8.30 The National Lottery Draw With Due South star Paul Gross and pop-punk tournae Snugg (1) (791130)
8.45 Points of View presented by Carol Vorderman (1) (714081)
9.00 News (1) and weather (1979)
9.25 National Lottery Update (275178)
9.30 The Thin Blue Line Patricia joins a group of environmentalists protesting against a proposed bypass, which places Fowler in a difficult position (1) (71, 95994)
10.00 Timecop (1994) Sci-fi adventure, starring Jean-Claude Van Damme, Ron Silver and Mira Sorvino. Directed by Peter Hyams (1) (257333) **WALES:** 10.00 *Bright Smoke*: profile of actor Michael Sheen (878449) 10.40 *Film: Timecop* (7205628) 12.15 *Amos & Andy* (252444) 1.10 *Game Show* (3294444) 1.15 *News* (4578956) 2.00 *BBC News 24*
11.35 International One-Day Cricket West Indies v England Highlights of today's second limited-overs international at the Kensington Oval in Bridgetown, Barbados (328772)
12.30am Figure Skating Barry Davies presents highlights from the men's short programme, in this week's World Championships in Minneapolis (5347918)
1.15 Weather (278092)
1.20 BBC News 24

- BBC2**
5.10am History of Maths (1174979) 6.35 *Tilings at the Alhambra* (515804)
7.00 See Hear News (1) and signing (8851913)
7.15 Teletubbies (1) (2318828) 7.40 *Captain Caveman* (1) 8.00 *Record Breakers Gold* (1) (44772) 8.30 *Postman Pat* (1) (6197001) 8.45 *The Record* (492342)
**9.10 News: T. Rex Exposed (531497)
10.00 Teletubbies (25710)
10.30 Lured (1947, b/w) Murder mystery with Lucille Ball as an American dancer who helps Scotland Yard catch a killer while stranded in London. With George Sanders and Boris Karloff. Directed by Douglas Sirk (8683333)
12.10pm Wear It Well (1) (134804) 12.30 *Working Lunch* (73772) 1.00 *Day the Dinosaur* (6174378) 1.05 *Baranman* (6175714) 1.10 *The Art and Antiques Hour* (1) (5589317)
2.10 Racing from Ascot Live coverage of the 2.30 Fairview New Homes Novices' Steeplechase. Continues on BBC1 at 2.40 (30935898)
2.40 News (1) (7354915) 2.45 *Westminster with Anna Mockford* (1) (5876233) 3.55 *News* (1) (7328282)
4.00 Change That In Winchester (1) (71) 4.30 *Ready, Steady, Cook* (8035867) 4.55 *Easier: Practical Jokes* (4012884) 5.30 *Today's the Day* (65)
6.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (1) (429997)
6.45 Sliders (1) (1) (310255)
7.30 Columbo (1) (2)
8.00 Antonio Carluccio's Southern Italian Feast New series of recipes from regions of southern Italy, beginning in Sardinia (1) (5772)
8.30 Home Front Tessa Shaw presents a new series of interior design and DIY tips (1) (4807)**



All friends together (9.00pm)

- 9.00 Modern Times Friends** A film exploring friendship in a group of five thirtysomethings (1) (784333)
9.50 A Woman Called Smith Former Labour leader John Smith's widow Elizabeth (1) (83246)
10.00 Room 101 Jeremy Clarkson outlines his pet hates (1) (55888)
10.30 Newswatch (1) (294081)
11.15 Jazz 608 Saxophonist Don Weller, singer Diana Krall, guitarist Billy Jenkins, big band Ray Gelato Giants (954486)
11.55 Weather (505804)
12.00 The Midnight Hour (55289)
12.30am Learning Zone: Sex and the Single (202259) 1.00 *The Art of the Deal* (48550) 1.30 *Food: Whose Choice is It Anyway?* (93586) 2.00 *Science 2 - Biology* (59111) 4.00 *Get By in Spanish* (52901) 5.00 *RCN Nursing Update* (947314) 5.45 *Body Plans* (28227)

- BBC2**
6.00am GMTV (1800913)
9.25 This Morning (1) (9802197)
9.30 Vanessa: Doggy Dealers (1) (1529933)
10.10 This Morning (71555449)
12.15pm Regional News (2985642)
12.30 News (1) and weather (25045)
1.00 Shortland Street (57284)
1.30 Home and Away (1) (76587)
2.00 The Jerry Springer Show (2378617)
2.45 Waffle (1) (971082)
3.15 News (1) (2002772)
3.20 Regional News (2632913)
3.25 Tots TV (2622336) 3.35 *The Blobs* (6997178) 3.45 *Paddington Bear* (1) (971255) 3.55 *Kipper* (1) (952130) 4.00 *Osca and Friends* (529038) 4.05 *The Wombles* (7709401) 4.20 *Wool* (1) (268159) 4.45 *How Goes 2* (1) (802788)
5.10 WALS: Primetime Diary (1) (1125265)
**5.10 You Can Cook - The Best of Chops: Imperial Banquet (1125265)
5.40 News (1) and weather (47804)
6.00 Home and Away (1) (304343)
6.25 WALS: Wales Tonight (1) (275555)
6.25 HTV Weather (89739)
6.30 The West Tonight (1)
7.00 Emmerdale The Clams family problems and in violence (1) (3178)
7.30 The Big Match: Champions League Live Bob Wilson presents live coverage of the first-leg of the semi-final between Real Madrid and Borussia Dortmund (1) Includes the Lottery Result (27210082)
NB: Subsequent programmes are subject to delay and alteration
9.45 Coronation Street A mysterious visitor arrives on Les's doorstep (1) (135333)
10.15 News at Ten (1), weather and Lottery Result (150642)
10.45 Regional News (1) (889710)**



Eastwood in conversation (10.55pm)

- 10.55 Eastwood in conversation** A profile of the actor and director Clint Eastwood, including interviews, film clips and a behind-the-scenes look at *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*, which he produced and directed (587599)
11.55 The Big Match: Champions League Highlights (955212)
12.55am The Face of Fear (1500) With Pam Dawber, Les Horsley and Kevin Connolly. A mountain climber uses his new-found psychic powers to help the police track a serial killer. Based on the novel by Dean R. Koontz. Directed by Farhad Daman (392505)
2.45 The Big Match: Juventus v AS Monaco (290305)
4.30 Cybernet (35247289)
4.55 HTV Nightseries (5293043)
5.00 Coronation Street (44442)
5.30 News (43444)

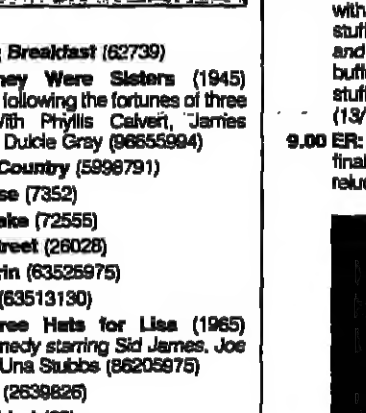
- HTV**
6.00am GMTV (1800913)
9.25 This Morning (1) (9802197)
9.30 Vanessa: Doggy Dealers (1) (1529933)
10.10 This Morning (71555449)
12.15pm Regional News (2985642)
12.30 News (1) and weather (25045)
1.00 Shortland Street (57284)
1.30 Home and Away (1) (76587)
2.00 The Jerry Springer Show (2378617)
2.45 Waffle (1) (971082)
3.15 News (1) (2002772)
3.20 Regional News (2632913)
3.25 Tots TV (2622336) 3.35 *The Blobs* (6997178) 3.45 *Paddington Bear* (1) (971255) 3.55 *Kipper* (1) (952130) 4.00 *Osca and Friends* (529038) 4.05 *The Wombles* (7709401) 4.20 *Wool* (1) (268159) 4.45 *How Goes 2* (1) (802788)
5.10 WALS: Primetime Diary (1) (1125265)
**5.10 You Can Cook - The Best of Chops: Imperial Banquet (1125265)
5.40 News (1) and weather (47804)
6.00 Home and Away (1) (304343)
6.25 WALS: Wales Tonight (1) (275555)
6.25 HTV Weather (89739)
6.30 The West Tonight (1)
7.00 Emmerdale The Clams family problems and in violence (1) (3178)
7.30 The Big Match: Champions League Live Bob Wilson presents live coverage of the first-leg of the semi-final between Real Madrid and Borussia Dortmund (1) Includes the Lottery Result (27210082)
NB: Subsequent programmes are subject to delay and alteration
9.45 Coronation Street A mysterious visitor arrives on Les's doorstep (1) (135333)
10.15 News at Ten (1), weather and Lottery Result (150642)
10.45 Regional News (1) (889710)**



Eastwood in conversation (10.55pm)

- 10.55 Eastwood in conversation** A profile of the actor and director Clint Eastwood, including interviews, film clips and a behind-the-scenes look at *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*, which he produced and directed (587599)
11.55 The Big Match: Champions League Highlights (955212)
12.55am The Face of Fear (1500) With Pam Dawber, Les Horsley and Kevin Connolly. A mountain climber uses his new-found psychic powers to help the police track a serial killer. Based on the novel by Dean R. Koontz. Directed by Farhad Daman (392505)
2.45 The Big Match: Juventus v AS Monaco (290305)
4.30 Cybernet (35247289)
4.55 HTV Nightseries (5293043)
5.00 Coronation Street (44442)
5.30 News (43444)

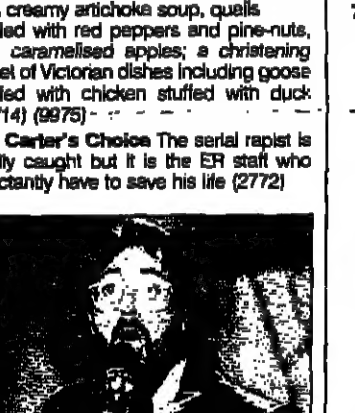
- CENTRAL**
As HTV West except:
1.00pm A Country Practice (87284)
1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (5857352)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (1125265)
6.25-7.00 Central News (278555)
2.45am The Big Match (239050)
4.30 Central Jobfinder '98 (5223024)
5.20 Asian Eye (4835331)
WESTCOUNTRY
As HTV West except:
12.15pm-12.30 Illuminations (6181772)
1.00 Emmerdale (67284)
1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (5857352)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (1125265)
6.00-7.00 Westcountry News (85517)
10.44 Westcountry Weather (673159)
MERIDIAN
As HTV West except:
12.15-12.30 News and Weather (6181772)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (1125265)
6.00 Meridian Tonight (84)
6.30-7.00 Doing It Up (4)
5.00am Freeview (44442)
ANGLIA
As HTV West except:
12.15pm Anglia Air Watch (2956130)
1.00-1.30 Surprise Chefs (87284)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (1125265)
6.23 Anglia Weather (99468)
6.25-7.00 Anglia News (278555)
10.44 Anglia Air Watch (673159)
Starts:
7.00am The Big Breakfast (62739)
9.00 FILM: They Were Sisters (1945) Melodrama following the fortunes of three siblings. With Phyllis Calvert, James Mason and Dulcie Gray (9865904)
11.05 London's Country (599791)
11.30 Powerhouse (7352)
12.00pm Rold Lake (72555)
12.30 Sesame Street (26028)
1.00 Slot Meltham (83526975)
1.15 Smokey (1) (83513130)
1.30 FILM: Three Hats for Lisa (1965) Musical comedy starring Sid James, Joe Brown and Una Stubbs (86205975)
3.25 Fresh Pot (2639826)
3.30 Collectors' Lot (62)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (7)
4.30 Countdown (81)
5.00 S Pump (5400710)
5.15 Fife (5211401)
5.30 I Dream of Jeannie (33)
6.00 Newsworld (6) (428807)
6.10 Heno (728589)
7.00 Pabot v Cwm (984333)
7.25 Ffleming (188517)
8.00 Hawtill (3028)
8.30 Newsworld (9975)
9.00 Weather: The Peacemaker (2772)
10.00 Brookside (143823)
10.35 ER (187343)
11.30 Frazier (16092)
12.00am Under the Moon (896337)
2.00 NBA XFL (84734)
4.30 Gamesmaster (54111)
5.00 Didded (1586734)



Ben Elton contributes (10.00pm)

- 10.00 First on Four: Saturday Live** Talks with comedians, producers and those influenced by the show, with clips from the three series (4/5) (1) (2158)
11.00 Fortean TV Uncut (1) (8804)
11.30 Gae Leo Leo introduces Neil Anthony, Gordon and Mike (1) (8804)
12.00 Under the Moon (896337)
2.00am NBA XFL (84734)
4.30 Gamesmaster (54111)
5.00 Trans-World Sport (1586734)

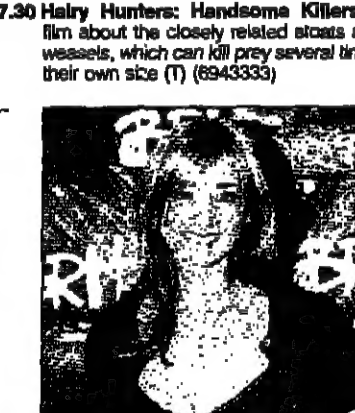
- CHANNEL 4**
6.00am Sesame Street (1) (68265)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (62739)
9.00 They Were Sisters (b/w, 1945) with Phyllis Calvert, Dulcie Gray and Anne Crawford. Melodrama about the married life of three sisters. Directed by Arthur Crabtree (9865904)
11.05 London's Country (599791) 11.30 *Powerhouse* (1) (7352) 12.00 *Sesame Street* (26028) 1.00 *Late Lunch* with Ruby Wax (1) (58265)
1.30 Johnny Eager (b/w, 1941) with Robert Taylor and Lena Turner. Taylor is a paroled crook who pretends to go straight while continuing with his criminal activities and falling in love with the daughter of the attorney who sent him to jail. Directed by Mervyn LeRoy (15555)
3.30 Collectors' Lot Ornamental rabbits, knitting patterns, a shell grotto in Kent and a collection of steam engines in Yorkshire (1) (62)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (1) (7) 4.30 *Countdown* (1) (8020875)
4.55 Rold Lake Drag artist Rupa transforms unsuspecting men into women (1) (671212)
5.30 Pat Rescue The centre receives several abandoned cats (1) (33)
6.00 Late Lunch What used to be *Light Lunch* (1) (46)
6.30 Friends: The One With The List Rachel makes a painful discovery about Ross. Monica is set an impossible task (1) (7) (8)
7.00 Channel 4 News and weather (1) (55401)
7.55 Muffin Cookbook Dessert pizzas (50089)
8.00 Brookside Why is Jacqui determined to have Kate as her birth-partner? (1) (8028)
8.30 TV Dinners An early retirement dinner with creamy artichoke soup, quails, stuffed with red peppers and pine-nuts, and caramelised apples; a chattering buffet of Victorian dishes including goose stuffed with chicken stuffed with duck (13/14) (9975)
9.00 ER: Carter's Choice The serial rapist is finally caught but it is the ER staff who reluctantly have to save his life (2772)



Songstress Louise performs (8.00pm)

- 8.00 The Pajama Club** presented by Eddy Temple-Morris and Rhona Miller. Includes live music from Louise (816159)
8.30 Food Fight Comedy quiz with Andy Parsons, Henry Taylor and Sara Cox (817894)
9.00 Trapped and Deceived (1994) with Jennie Garth, Jill Eikenberry and Paul Sorvino. Domestic drama about a troubled woman who is sent to a psychiatric hospital. Directed by Robert Iscove (8477517)
10.50 The Jack Docherty Show Chat and comedy (5034130)
11.30 Monsters Out Sci-fi series (7481333)
12.00 Live and Dangerous (56442208)
4.40am Prisoner Cell Block H (2999753)
5.30 100 Per Cent (1) (8232260)

- CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE**
Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a Videocrypt decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 63 are: picture: 10.92075 GHz; sound: 7.02 and 7.20 MHz
6.00am 5 News Early (1) (2307642)
7.00 WorldWide Recording current events for historians of the future (1/5) (1) (107284)
7.30 Milkshake! (5622826) 7.35 *Wimze's case* (1) (816994) 8.00 *Hawkeezoo* (1) (857151) 8.30 *Dappledawn Farm* (1) (8570888)
9.00 Espresso (924623) 10.00 *Hairy Hunters* (1) (7492449) 10.30 *Sunset Beach* (1) (550387) 11.10 *Lezza* (530333)
12.00 5 News (1) (8574604) 12.30pm *Family Affairs* (1) (1488994) 1.00 *The Bold and the Beautiful* (1) (1072555) 1.30 *Sons and Daughters* (1487255) 2.00 *Barry's Law* (7493178) 3.00 *100 Per Cent* (815130)
3.30 MADD - Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (1983) with Mariette Hartley, Paula Prentiss and Bart Renner. Drama about a woman who founded the anti-drunk-driver movement after her daughter was killed. William Graham directs (268738)
5.25 Russell Grant's Postcards: A Wet Wimbledon (24552642)
5.30 The Great Game (1) (1) (869284)
6.00 100 Per Cent (8263197)
6.30 Family Affairs Roy tries to return the stolen cash and Melanie is questioned by the police (1) (854449)
7.00 5 News (1) (8180739)
7.30 Hairy Hunters: Handsome Killers A film about the closely related stags and wags, which can kill per several times their own size (1) (8943333)



Songstress Louise performs (8.00pm)

- 8.00 The Pajama Club** presented by Eddy Temple-Morris and Rhona Miller. Includes live music from Louise (816159)
8.30 Food Fight Comedy quiz with Andy Parsons, Henry Taylor and Sara Cox (817894)
9.00 Trapped and Deceived (1994) with Jennie Garth, Jill Eikenberry and Paul Sorvino. Domestic drama about a troubled woman who is sent to a psychiatric hospital. Directed by Robert Iscove (8477517)
10.50 The Jack Docherty Show Chat and comedy (5034130)
11.30 Monsters Out Sci-fi series (7481333)
12.00 Live and Dangerous (56442208)
4.40am Prisoner Cell Block H (2999753)
5.30 100 Per Cent (1) (8232260)

For further listings see Saturday's Vision

SKY 1

- 7.00am Street Sharks** (7449) 7.30 *Games World* (198488) 7.40 *The Simpsons* (45171) 8.15 *OP* (803507) 9.00 *Home* (4942) 10.00 *Another World* (10329) 11.00 *Day of the Living Dead* (1984) 12.00 *Home with Children* (4947) 12.30pm *M-A-S-H* (20263) 1.00 *Garfield* (27517) 2.00 *Sally Jessy Raphael* (42401) 3.00 *Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway* (1984) 4.00 *Drum Town* (5284) 5.00 *Marmite with Children* (8838) 6.00 *Space Island One* (74448) 7.00 *Star Trek: The Next Generation* (5571) 8.00 *Drum Town* (5284) 9.00 *Marmite with Children* (8838) 10.00 *Space Island One* (74448) 11.00 *Star Trek: The Next Generation* (5571) 12.00 *Live and Order* (6227) 2.00 *Long Play* (209738)

SKY BOX OFFICE

- Sky's pay-per-view movie channels. To view any film telephone 0901 800888. Each film costs £2.95 per viewing.

SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 26)

SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 30)

SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 52)

WEDNESDAY APRIL 1 1998

Run of one-day successes built on shrewd change of policy

England's cup overflowing

FROM ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
IN BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS

ENGLAND'S cricket is in a state of acute frustration. The Test team, no longer subservient, regularly marches on the strongholds of the five-day game only to trip over the doorstep. At age-group and A-team level, results continue to suggest that the future is bright, while the one-day side is playing with such proficiency that if the World Cup was staged this May, rather than next, they would probably win it.

A year, though, may make no difference. Far from diminishing their prospects, indeed, time may enhance them, for Adam Hoolioake's team has speedily discovered a mutual identity. The familiarity that will come with a year of exposure can only be to their benefit.

The most impressive aspect of their win on Sunday was that they withstood a century from Brian Lara that would have devastated most teams and still won a tight match. Unless Lara is going to bat like this in every game, there is no good reason to doubt that England will now take the five-game Cable & Wireless series, which resumes at Kensington Oval today, when England are almost sure to be unchanged.

Since the last World Cup, which they approached in perfunctory, piecemeal style, England have made up for ten years of complacency in three. The method, of course, has been severe. A surgical separation of Test and one-day business.

On Sunday, West Indies, playing at home and with their entire workforce to choose from, picked nine of the men who completed the Antigua Test. England used only three — Stewart, Thorpe and Headley — and even changed their captain.

The dividing of the national captaincy still arouses strong feelings. In Australia, Mark Taylor is reportedly considering resignation because he has lost the one-day section of the job: he believes it to be bad for team harmony.

Hoolioake's original nomi-



Headley listens intently to advice offered by his dreadlocked caddy as the England players relax on the golf course in Barbados

nation to captain the one-day games on this tour was adamantly vetoed by two selectors and former captains — Mike Gatting and Graham Gooch — who plainly would not have stood for it in their day.

Michael Atherton, misguidedly accused of agitating for complete power, actually never ventured a view. His subsequent decision to stay on

under Hoolioake, having stood down as captain, says much for his team ethic, for he is most unlikely to get a game.

The new England policy countermands the conventional wisdom that the best players will excel at both codes. Eight of the one-day side have played Test cricket, but five cannot get into the strongest XI; instead of being shelved, though, their talents for the short game are being embraced and nurtured.

Mark Ealham is a case in point. Perhaps he should have played more Tests against Australia last summer. Per-

haps he will play more in future. But he will never be better than a fringe five-day member, whereas there is scarcely a one-day game he does not influence by his robust batting, tenacious outfielding and a bowling style that owes much to subtle changes of pace.

The same, and more, can be said of his Kent team-mate, Matthew Fleming. He has never been close to the Test side and still finds it difficult to believe he is an England player at all, but his contribution at this level is very similar to that of Ealham.

Slower balls are the life-blood of the successful one-day attack and, through Ealham, Dougie Brown, Fleming and Hoolioake, England are well served. At least five West Indies wickets on Sunday were taken with slower balls and a little such ingenuity against Lambert and Wallace, in the past two Tests, might have saved England time and energy.

It is hard to know quite how good a unit England have become this past year. Matches this summer against South Africa and Sri Lanka, the best one-day sides around, will be

more instructive. For now, they can only go on doing their thing.

Eight successive wins is a remarkable run in the banana-skin environment of one-day cricket. The sequence will surely end soon, but England have a side of such all-round depth, playing with such confidence, that it should barely check their stride.

WEST INDIES (from): B C Lara (captain), P A Wallace, D B Lambert, C L Hooper, S Chandrasekhar, S C Williams, P V Simmons, J R Murray, R N Lewis, C E L Ambrose, C A Walcott, P A Ross, M Dainton. ENGLAND (probable): A J Hoolioake (captain), N V Knight, A J Stewart, B C Hoolioake, G A Hirst, B F Thorpe, M A Ealham, M V Fleming, D B Brown, R D B Croft, D W Headley.

Ajax prepare £5m move for Kinkladze

BY DAVID MADDOCK

GEORGI KINKLADZE appears to have come to the end of his romance with Manchester City. The Georgia international flew from Manchester airport yesterday for a meeting with Ajax, of Amsterdam.

Officials at the Dutch club confirmed last night that they had held preliminary talks with the player and that they were negotiating with Manchester City over the terms of a possible £5 million transfer.

"Our chairman, Michael van Praag, met the vice-president for a business meeting," a spokesman said. "They are the two people responsible for deciding on finance for transfers."

Although Joe Royle, the City manager, is keen to sell the midfielder player, the news will still come as a shock to the club's supporters, who have idolised Kinkladze during his three-year spell at the club. He has mesmerised dribbling skills, but his detractors point to a lack of goals and the fact that he seems to go missing in most matches, even if he does dazzle in high-profile games.

Royle will be glad of the transfer fee for Kinkladze as he embarks on a rebuilding programme at Maine Road, one that is desperately needed with the club languishing near the bottom of the Nationwide League first division. City paid Dynamo Tbilisi only £500,000 for the Georgian in July 1995 and, if Ajax do eventually part with £5 million for his services, the profits will be offered to Royle as transfer funds.

The Football Association has charged Barnsley and Everton with offences after incidents during their matches on Saturday involving supporters charging on to the pitch. However, the two teams are likely to escape severe punishment.

Under Rule 24 of FA regulations, clubs are held to be responsible for the conduct of their spectators and for any encroachment on to pitch areas. At Barnsley, supporters invaded the pitch on three occasions during the course of a controversial 3-2 defeat by Liverpool. Two individuals were prevented from attacking Gary Willard, the referee, only by the quick thinking of Jan Aage Fjortoft, the Barnsley striker, and Paul Ince, the Liverpool captain. Liverpool supporters also invaded the pitch when Steve McMan-

man scored a dramatic winning goal in the final minute. Three Barnsley players were sent off during the game at Oakwell.

At Everton, a single spectator ran on to the pitch to protest about a penalty awarded by Neale Barry, the referee, but was apprehended by Dwight Yorke, of Aston Villa and led from the ground. Everton lost the match 4-1, their heaviest defeat of the season.

John Dennis, the Barnsley chairman, asked last night for leniency from the FA, pointing to the prompt action of officials and good record of his club. "It comes as no great surprise that we have been charged, it is a sad day for everyone connected to Barnsley," he said.

Barnsley have banned indefinitely all spectators caught running on to the pitch and have appealed for restraint

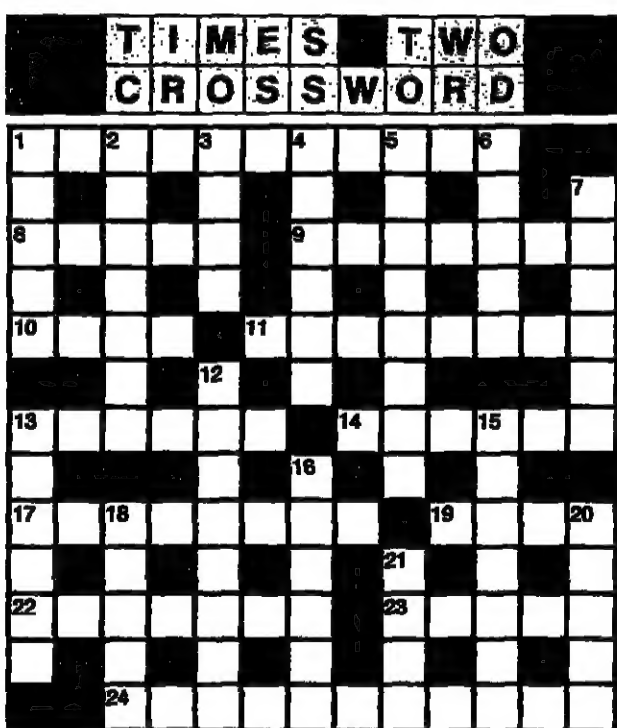


Kinkladze: talented

from their supporters in their remaining home matches.

Everton have banned the spectator who ran on to the field of play at Goodison Park and dismissed the steward who was policing the area of the ground from which he ran. "We are confident that when the FA hears our version of events, they will see that we have taken suitable precautions to prevent the situation happening again," Michael Dunford, the club secretary, said.

Both clubs could be docked points for the behaviour of their supporters, but it is likely that they will instead be fined and warned about their future conduct, even though Everton were warned a year ago when a supporter ran on to the pitch during their game with Arsenal.



No 1368

ACROSS

- 1 Self respect (Fr.) (5,6)
- 8 Camb. college; two Bible books (5)
- 9 In angry way (7)
- 10 (Archb. of York) a handicapped race (4)
- 11 1815 victory (8)
- 13 Background, locale (6)
- 14 Killed (by mob); high on pot (6)
- 17 Melbourne state (8)
- 19 Stone particles courage (4)
- 22 Pornography (7)
- 23 Rental agreement (5)
- 24 The Dominicans (5,6)

DOWN

- 1 Leg/foot joint (5)
- 2 Damaging blunder (3,4)
- 3 Hazard (4)
- 4 Of human types (6)
- 5 Character, possession (8)
- 6 Artist's stand (5)
- 7 Famous representative, example (6)
- 12 Speedwell; a cloth, a pass (8)
- 13 The films (US) (6)
- 15 Buddhist nothingness (7)
- 16 Act of air piracy (6)
- 18 (Southern) valley, hollow (5)
- 20 Lock of hair (5)
- 21 Indistinct sight (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1367

ACROSS: 1 Scum 3 Dragonian 8 Infidel 10 Rural 11 Mud-slinging 13 Siding 15 Snatch 17 Countenance 20 Argon 21 Patriot 22 Honey-bee 23 Chin
DOWN: 1 Skirmish 2 United 4 Relent 5 Gordian knot 6 Mr Right 7 Nile 9 Delinquency 12 Threaten 14 Decagon 16 Steppe 18 Neigh 19 Gash

THE TIMES BOOKSHOP

NEW TIMES CROSSWORD TITLES NOW AVAILABLE!
The Times Crossword (Book 7) £2.99, The Times Crossword (Book 8) £2.99, The Times Jumbo Crossword Book 3 is available in Times readers for just £4 (RRP £4.99) while supplies last from The Times Bookshop.
The Times Computer Crosswords no data may also be ordered, with free delivery, along with any other books from The Times Bookshop.
To order, simply call 0800 134 459 for credit card orders or for further details. (If paying by cheque/PO, please make payable to News Books/Crosswords and send to The Times Bookshop, PO Box 345, Falmouth, TR11 2YX. Delivery in 10-14 days and subject to availability.)

Goal twins peaking for Juventus

FROM OLIVER HOLT, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT,
IN MILAN

AS MANCHESTER United kick their heels at home and await the next stage of their faltering challenge for the FA Carling Premiership, the scourges of the English champions, both past and present, step up the competition tonight for the prize that Alex Ferguson and his team desire more than any other.

In the wake of United's premature exit at the hands of AS Monaco in the quarter-finals a fortnight ago, the new favourites for the European Cup, Juventus, will begin their bid to reach the final for the third successive season when they entertain the Monegasques in the Stadio Delle Alpi tonight.

If the French champions were able to capitalise on United's injury problems this season, Juventus taught them a salutary lesson last season by outclassing them at home and away. In this campaign, after a shaky start when they lost to United at Old Trafford and raised English hopes in the process, they are showing signs of peaking at the right time.

Sitting atop Serie A, a hair's breadth ahead of Internazionale and Lazio, Juventus go into the match tonight with the psychological boost of

having beaten their fallen rivals, AC Milan, 4-1 on Saturday. With Alessandro del Piero and Filippo Inzaghi, the "goal twins" who are the top scorers in the competition, in blistering form, they may overwhelm Monaco.

Juventus in this form will be a different proposition to the understrength United side that Monaco vanquished. The French champions will also be at a disadvantage because of the absence through suspension of their Scotland midfielder player, John Collins. Suggestions that their coach, Jean



Del Piero: blistering form

Tigana, may leave them to take charge of the France national team after the World Cup, are bound to have unsettled them, too.

Monaco have their own rival to Del Piero and Inzaghi in Thierry Henry, who has scored six goals in the competition, and he is likely to be partnered in attack by David Trezeguet, who scored the fine away goal that clinched their tie with United. Still, the odds are stacked against them.

Juventus have never been eliminated by French opponents in a European competition and, after their surprise defeat in the European Cup final last year, they are bristling with determination to win the trophy that many feel is theirs by right as the best team on the Continent. Gary Neville put United's achievement in beating them this season neatly into perspective. "You don't become the best by beating the best once," he said.

In the other semi-final, though, Borussia Dortmund will be trying to prove that their win over Juventus in the final in Munich last season was more than a fluke. Despite miserable form in the

Bundesliga, in which they are mid-table, they overcame Bayern Munich to reach the semi-finals and now face Real Madrid.

Real are a formidable obstacle to their hopes of forcing a repeat of the final last year and the Spaniards' determination to forge ahead in the first leg in the Bernabeu Stadium tonight will be increased by the fact that they appear to have ceded supremacy in the Primera Liga to Barcelona.

The Catalan club, which had such a disastrous campaign in the Champions League, including defeat against Newcastle United, has moved clear in the domestic competition and such is the pressure for success in Spain that Real will have to win the European Cup if their season is not to be deemed a complete failure.

Dortmund, though, showed just what stubborn opponents they can be when they eliminated United in the semi-finals last season despite being outplayed for large sections of both matches. If they ride their luck again, they could find themselves lining up for that return against Juventus in the Amsterdam Arena on May 20.

Italian police warn Chelsea supporters

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

ITALIAN police gave warning to Chelsea supporters yesterday to be on their best behaviour when the FA Cup and Coca-Cola Cup-holders take on Vicenza in the first leg of their Cup Winners' Cup semi-final tomorrow night. More than 1,000 police officers, backed by helicopters, will be waiting for the arrival of the 2,000 Chelsea fans expected to travel to Italy for the match.

"We will tolerate people being exuberant and we will be there to help the

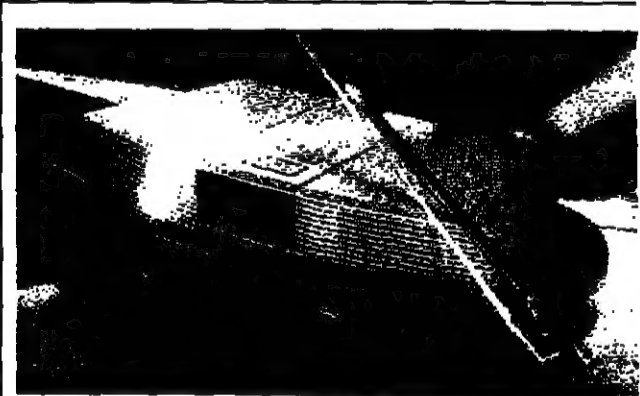
English fans in good spirit," an Italian police spokesman said. "If the situation started to degenerate beyond the limits laid down by the law and by common sense, we'll be ready to move in. We're hoping that we'll just be there to watch a great sporting event."

Police reinforcements are being drafted in from Florence, Milan, Bologna, Trieste and Padova to prepare for any trouble. City officials have already announced a ban on the sale of alcoholic drinks, which will come into force at midnight tonight. British police have given warning that up

to 700 known Chelsea troublemakers could travel to Italy without tickets.

The Italian approach has echoes of that for the Italy v England World Cup qualifying match in Rome last year, when heavy-handed tactics provoked criticism. It also follows the death of a Fulham supporter during disturbances after the Nationwide League second division match at Gillingham on Saturday and pitch invasions at FA Carling Premiership matches at Barnsley and Everton.

Leeds United drama, page 5

No radio this small
ever sounded so big.

Introducing the Bose® Wave® radio.

Enjoy the distinct sound of strings in your kitchen. Or the full orchestra in your bedroom. The new Bose Wave radio fills any room with rich, clear, unexpectedly lifelike sound. But you won't find this small wonder in any store. The Wave radio is only available direct from Bose. In two attractive colours: Imperial White or Graphite Grey. For a free information pack, simply send/fax the coupon below or call us freephone on:

0800 022 044

When calling, please quote the reference number
in the coupon below.

Hearing really is believing.

To audition the Wave radio in your own home for 14 days, satisfaction guaranteed, simply call us freephone and discover why Sky News said, "This box of tricks... sounds like a full orchestra."

Enjoy big, lifelike sound at home.

Yes, Bose, it sounds good to me.

Please send me more information about the Bose Wave radio and the 14-day, satisfaction-guaranteed audition.
Ref: 2981

Name _____ Mr/Ms/Ms.
Tel. _____ day
Address _____ eve
Postcode _____
Please return in an envelope to: Bose,
Freepost TK 1020, Twickenham, Middlesex
TW2 5UN. No stamp necessary.
Or fax to: 0181 410 8411.